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Legion

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THE POWER OF HARD WORK

Mike Rowe, who became a household name on the Discovery Channel show "Dirty Jobs," received the National Commander's Media & Communications Award in Reno for his inspirational message about the value of work, the greatness of America and the importance of accomplishment. *Photo by Clay Lomneth*

ON THE COVER

Surrounded by American Legion leadership and members of other veterans organizations, President Trump signed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act on the convention floor in Reno, Nev., on Aug. 23. For details on this historic legislation, go to **Page 44**. *Photo by Lucas Carter*



The American Legion Magazine, a leader among national general-interest publications, is published monthly by The American Legion for its 2 million members. These wartime veterans, working through 13,000 community-level posts, dedicate themselves to God and Country and traditional American values; strong national security; adequate and compassionate care for veterans, their widows and orphans; community service; and the wholesome development of our nation's youth.

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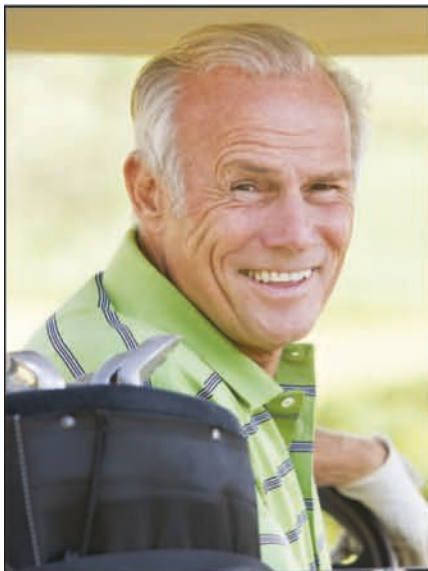
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'Whatever It Took to Save Lives'

Regarding Jeff Stoffer's article about Diane Carlson Evans (September): after she returned from Vietnam, I had the privilege of having her as my head nurse at Brooke Army Medical Center. I admired and respected her then, and even more so now after reading her story.

I served as a nurse in the Air Force during the same period but never got to go to Vietnam. I applaud Evans and am so blessed to have worked with her. Thank you for honoring her in this way.

— Lorna Peters Dressler, Universal City, Texas

I was pleased to see you recognize the outstanding service performed by our medical corps for our wounded soldiers. That includes doctors, nurses, medics, medevac crews and support personnel who saved the lives of thousands of critically injured fighters in Vietnam. I was one of them.

I have said thousands of times since then that our medical personnel do not receive the recognition they deserve for what they have done and continue to do to piece our maimed troops back together. These people are real heroes. The Vietnam Wall would be much larger if not for their skill and dedication to saving the lives of others.

— Joel K. Chase, Warrenton, Va.

'Courage to Live'

Great story by Elizabeth M. Collins (September). In late 1944, I was a member of a

security unit of the 116th General Hospital in Harrogate, England. We assisted the medical staff in transporting wounded personnel from trains arriving at Harrogate. So many times I observed the care and compassion shown by nurses throughout these transfers and trips back to the hospital.

Just a short distance away was the 117th General Hospital. Often medical personnel from both hospitals would assist each other at the train. Many of these nurses were from the Boston area; their "twang" brought smiles to the faces of the personnel being cared for. They worked around the clock, and on my midnight tours of the wards I always found them smiling as they looked after their patients. They were still smiling when I left the unit in early 1945 to attend infantry OCS in France.

— Pat Carroll, Fairfield, Conn.

Filling shoes

Thank you for the inspiring column (Commander's Message, September). We at Fletcher-Pechacek Post 121, where I am adjutant, take seriously the need to "fill the shoes" of those who preceded us. In 2017, for the second year in a row, we reached an all-time high in membership (530). Nearly 25 percent of our 2017 membership is post-9/11 veterans. We are confident they will continue the programs and services of the Four Pillars that define The American Legion.

— Jim Miller, River Falls, Wis.

'The Trouble with Taiwan'

I read Alan W. Dowd's article and substantially concur with what he said; however, I take issue with his falling under the spell of our State Department by referring to the Republic of China as Taiwan. Taiwan is an island, not a nation.

Acknowledging the "One China" policy of the People's Republic of China, the State Department timidly acquiesces by referring to our reliable ally as Taiwan. I give credit to The American Legion in the related sidebar for using the correct title, as well as bringing readers' attention to Resolution No. 89.

— Lowell P. Little Jr., Albuquerque, N.M.

Alan Dowd says Washington's goal should be "to prevent Taiwan from turning its *de facto* independence into *de jure* independence." Should it remain in limbo forever? A free people should vote for sovereignty and join the world of nations.

— Sterling Sharrar, Brainerd, Minn.

Passing the president's budget

I read the columns by Reps. Jack Bergman and Mark Pocan (Big Issues, September). While I do not share all of Bergman's opinions, I respect him for his distinguished military career. Having said that, I understand his position to be that cuts must be made to some important programs now to avoid "massive cuts" in the future. These tough decisions are necessary because congressional Republicans are "unified in our dedication to rein in our national debt."

The next big legislative project confronting Congress is tax reform. I hope Bergman and his fellow Republicans will bear in mind their desire to reduce the federal debt when deciding whether or not to pass the massive tax cuts for the rich proposed by many in their party. If they believe like Adm. Mike Mullen that the single biggest threat to America's national security is our debt, tax cuts for the rich should be taken off the table. If working-class and middle-class citizens (and veterans) must suffer now (as Pocan points out), this is hardly too much to ask.

— Michael French, West Allis, Wis.

Firing VA employees

When I read Tom Philpott's article about VA's problems (Veterans Update, September), I thought, "It's time to clean house." Start with the managers who already had the tools to get rid of the people not doing their jobs. All we hear are alibis and more corruption.

— Kenneth L. Koester, Effie, Minn.

Many factors have caused the failures of VA, but the American Federation of Government Employees is the main culprit. There was no union for us when we fought in the mountains of Afghanistan, the streets of Iraq, the jungles of Vietnam, the cities of South Korea and the beaches of World War II. If serving veterans alone is not enough for you, then quit.

— Keith M. Fosmire, Bridgeport, N.Y.

Honor and recruit

In advance of The American Legion's centennial, Post 89 in Metamora, Ill., encourages all posts to take on two important tasks to ensure the Legion's legacy continues into our next century: 1) publicly honor and memorialize those from your community who served in any conflict/war, and 2) encourage those who served from your communities during a qualifying period to consider joining the Legion and/or supporting its programs and aims.

To lead the way, Post 89 is expanding its town square Honor Roll Memorial to include the names of those who served post-Vietnam, and conducting targeted outreach through community events, social media and newspapers. It is essential to reach out, recognize, enroll and honor those who served so that the Legion can continue its service and leadership to our communities and the nation. Please join Post 89 in this outreach mission to memorialize and enroll servicemembers from your community.

— Col. Andrew J. Elbert, Metamora, Ill.

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The American Legion means family

The late Rev. Jerome D. Fortenberry learned the meaning of family after his father, a World War I combat veteran, died in the miserable heart of the Depression, leaving five kids and a single mother amid a storm of uncertainties. The first knocks on the door after the death, the Rev. Fortenberry recounted from boyhood, were by his father's American Legion post adjutant and service officer. From that moment on, despite hardships, the family had a roof overhead, food on the table and clothes on kids' backs, all thanks to their American Legion Family.

Across the generations, we who have been in this organization a few years know that the Rev. Fortenberry's story can be multiplied by millions. And if you're like me, you recall a certain emptiness after discharge from the U.S. Armed Forces and the unforgettable connections forged in the service, much like a family. The American Legion forges similar bonds through a shared mission to improve communities, states and our nation, putting service above self, as we did when in uniform.

By fulfilling our missions, the Legion Family naturally grows. Beyond the walls of our post homes, we find our extended family in places like schools – teachers and parents who help with programs like Boys State, Oratorical competitions and American Legion Baseball. We naturally find family among the active-duty, National Guard and reserve community to whom we offer needed help through the Family Support Network or the Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program, which aids more than 600 families and 1,500 children on average each year.

The American Legion Family is certainly an extended one. Beyond the American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and Legion Riders, we share bonds with local businesses, colleges, civic groups, houses of worship, tribal centers, first responders, VA staff, public officials and others. If you think about it, our family extends to all who believe in the freedoms we swore with our lives to defend.

A U.S. Marine Corps veteran and his young son were recently on the brink of eviction, two years after the death of his wife. Overwhelmed by bills, he looked for help in other places and was turned away until he applied for an American Legion TFA grant. "Trouble," he said, "rained and poured in our lives." The American Legion, as it did for the young Jerome Fortenberry, knew what to do when a family member was in trouble. "If the Legion hadn't come through, we would have been evicted," the Marine veteran dad said after the TFA grant rescued him and his son from homelessness.

Perhaps in time he and his son will follow in the steps of Fortenberry, who served in the Navy during World War II and spent 58 years in the Legion. He was the Legion's national chaplain in 1973.

I chose "Family First!" as my message this year because I believe family is not only what we are, but why we are. This Veterans Day, Saturday, Nov. 11, I call on all American Legion posts, units, squadrons and chapters to invite their families, extended and otherwise, to share a meal together, as all families should do more often, and remind one another why we came together in the first place – and how much that means to so many who may have had no place to turn without us.

Denise H. Rohan



National Commander
Denise H. Rohan

MEMORANDA

VETERANS DAY DINNER

"Bigger and better than ever" is the way American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan wants Veterans Day to be presented across the country this year. Media tools to promote Veterans Day dinners and events are now available online.

www.legion.org/nalpa/resources

COMMANDER'S CHARITY FUND

National Commander Rohan's fundraising project for 2017-2018 aims to assist service officers, who provide free VA claims counseling and assistance, and to build up the life-changing Temporary Financial Assistance program, which provides cash grants to military and veteran families in serious financial need.

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“What The American Legion has done for the community, what it’s done for veterans – it gets me in my heart.”

PAUL ESPINOZA

When Paul Espinoza is trying to recruit a young veteran into The American Legion, he’ll often go the extra mile of covering the first year’s membership dues.

“That’s just my instinct,” says Espinoza, who served as New Mexico’s department commander from 2013 to 2015. “When I see they really want to be involved in the Legion, I’ll fork it out if I can.” Other times, he’ll encourage a Legion post to pick up the dues.

An Army veteran, Espinoza meets a lot of younger veterans by helping organize an annual job fair at Post 13 in Albuquerque. This year’s event attracted hundreds of people, including many post-9/11 veterans. “Half of them didn’t know what The American Legion was, and once we explained, they wanted to be in,” he says.

Espinoza knows the benefits of the Legion’s work firsthand – for example, the GI Bill helped put him through college. He’s also proud of what New Mexico Legionnaires do for local communities, including providing coats and food for homeless veterans, scholarships for students and other services.

“Being a part of the Legion means a lot to me,” Espinoza says. “They gave so much to me and my family.”

– Andy Proffet

BRANCH OF SERVICE Army (1983-1986), Army National Guard (1986-2005)

MILITARY JOB Air defense, transportation

RANK Staff sergeant

AMERICAN LEGION POST Post 13, Albuquerque

YEARS IN THE LEGION 12

LEGION ACTIVITIES

- Alternate National Executive Committeeman
- National vice commander (2016-2017)
- National Foreign Relations Council (2011-2013)
- National Security Council (2013-2016)
- Department centennial chairman (2016-present)
- Department membership chairman (2015-2016)
- Department commander (2013-2015)
- Department vice commander (2011-2013)
- Post commander (2011-2013)

Watch a video interview with Paul Espinoza:

 www.legion.org/magazine

See an archive of past interviews:

 www.legion.org/iamlegion



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SUPPORT

Rep. Steven Palazzo, R-Miss.

■ Palazzo is vice chairman of the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee.

Our government's first responsibility is the safety and security of the nation and its citizens. Border security is national security.

The Obama administration pushed a liberal immigration agenda with policies such as the DREAM Act, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), protecting sanctuary cities that don't enforce immigration law and refusing to secure our borders. The inability to account for individuals entering our country threatens the safety of our people and our system of government.

President Trump blocked certain federal funding to cities that do not cooperate with immigration enforcement. Crossings at the southern border have reached a 17-year low and have fallen over 60 percent since January. In Congress we passed bill after bill to strengthen our border security and stop unlawful practices in sanctuary cities.

Trump also promised to build a wall along our southern border to block individuals from entering our country illegally. As vice chairman of the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee, I was pleased that we could provide \$1.6 billion for the border wall in the fiscal 2018 bill.

In addition, our bill also provided \$100 million to hire 500 new Border Patrol agents, \$131 million for new border technology, and \$106 million for new aircraft and sensors. These resources will increase our capacity to halt the flow of illegal goods into and out of the country. Putting more boots on the ground is crucial. Specifically, I've urged the use of the National Guard to secure our borders.

A majority of Americans wants us to secure our borders. Deterring individuals from entering our country illegally is an imperative step in ensuring that U.S. citizens are safe and secure.



OPPOSE

Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas

■ Cuellar is a member of the House Appropriations Homeland Security Subcommittee.

President Trump won office through outlandish campaign promises. One such promise was the construction of a "wall" on our southwest border, to be paid for by Mexico. Regardless of Trump's promise, Mexico will not pay a dime, and if built, the wall's costs will be borne by U.S. taxpayers.

This proposed 2,000-mile wall would cost roughly \$21.2 million per mile. This is a 14th-century solution to a 21st-century problem. Why not take a 21st-century approach by utilizing

advanced technologies based on a capability gap analysis, costing less than \$1 million per mile?

Each mile of border has unique operational, geographical, cultural and technological challenges. Much of this land has been owned by families for generations. These farmers and ranchers use the river to irrigate crops and water livestock. Further, many have family burial plots by the river; one landowner's father, a World War II veteran who fought at Iwo Jima, is buried there.

Building a wall also ignores the reality of our immigration issues. Roughly 40 percent of undocumented people in America arrived on legal visas by plane, car or boat, and overstayed those visas. Since 2007, these overstays have exceeded those who entered without inspections. And according to the Pew Research Center, since 2012 more Mexicans – both legal and illegal – have been leaving than coming in.

Each day, the United States and Mexico trade \$1.3 billion, and 6 million U.S. jobs depend on trade with Mexico. The best way to end illegal immigration is economic security. We should invest in our trade infrastructure to highlight the fact that Mexico and the United States are great neighbors and trade partners, not enemies.

THE HEART OF THE ISSUE

Supporters of a U.S.-Mexico border wall say it will block and deter individuals from entering the country illegally. Critics say it's too expensive, ineffective, and fails to consider operational, geographical and technological challenges.

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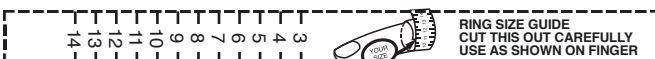
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Caregivers, by the numbers

November is National Family Caregivers Month. The Family Caregiver Alliance (**caregiver.org**) offers a snapshot of this segment of Americans:

43.5 million

Caregivers who have provided unpaid care to an adult or child in the past 12 months

39.8 million

Caregivers who provide care to adults 18 and older with disabilities or illnesses

5.5 million

Caregivers caring for former or current military personnel

75+ Percent of all caregivers who are female

49.2 Average age of a caregiver, in years

4 Average duration of a caregiver's role, in years



Media Bakery

Living Well is designed to provide general information. It is not intended to be, nor is it, medical advice. Readers should consult their physicians when they have health problems.

A mind 'strong and clear'

BY LANCE FRAZER

Buddha described keeping the body in good health as a duty, "otherwise we shall not be able to keep our mind strong and clear." Today, as the world's population ages, diseases of the mind are of great concern.

Dementia has a range of causes, the most common being Alzheimer's disease. The Alzheimer's Association estimates that 5.5 million people in the United States have the disease (the sixth-leading cause of death in the country), and that it is the cause of 50 to 70 percent of all dementia cases.

Carl Cotman, professor of neurobiology and behavior at the University of California Irvine, is launching a national clinical trial to look at the effect of aerobic exercise on early Alzheimer's.

"Exercise is a wonder drug for the brain," he says. "It builds synapses, increases blood flow, develops new

neurons, and releases a protective and healing molecule that enhances memory. You can still reap the benefits even if you start when you're no longer young. The bulk of evidence we have to date shows that even a little bit is better than nothing."

Zaldy Tan, medical director of the UCLA Alzheimer's & Dementia Care Program, recently led a review of the 1948 Framingham study of heart disease. His group found a strong link between low physical activity and an increased risk of dementia.

"We're focused on risk reduction, on identifying preventive factors, and the evidence shows very strongly that lower physical activity is closely related to higher risk," Tan says. "Physical activity improves your cardio health, which has been shown to have a direct relation to a reduced risk of dementia. We don't yet

See **MIND** on page 16



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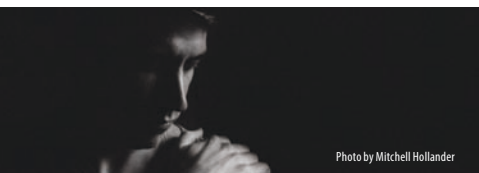


Photo by Mitchell Hollander

SAD situation

For an estimated 25 million Americans who suffer from wintertime depression, the transition from fall to early winter – when everything suddenly seems colder and darker – leaves them down, moody, and distant from family and friends.

Called Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD), the symptoms are wide-ranging and include lack of energy, concentration problems, anxiety, overeating, loss of libido and sudden mood changes.

The causes of the condition are not certain, but many experts believe there is a disruption to the body's biological functioning and circadian rhythm, which is tied to a lack of sunlight in fall and winter. The decrease in sunlight may alter the body's internal clock, leading to increased feelings of depression. Others hypothesize that the reduction in sunlight causes a drop in hormone levels in the part of the brain that controls mood, sleep and appetite.

If your symptoms occur consistently at the same time of the year, seek medical assistance. Your doctor may recommend an antidepressant if symptoms persist, or use of a lightbox that exposes you to bright light that mimics external light.

Ken Yeager, a mental health expert at the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, says a person can help prevent the onset of SAD by exercising, eating healthier foods, opening curtains and blinds at home and in the office, and spending time outside, even on a cloudy day. "Keep walking, working out and taking care of yourself," Yeager says.

– Martin Sayers

MIND continued from page 14

have all the reasons why, but evidence points to things like healthier capillaries, resulting in better blood flow to the brain (and) production of hormones that stimulate the growth of nerve cells."

The idea of a genetic link carries an aura of inevitability. That's not necessarily the case.

"If a member of a patient's family develops Alzheimer's before 60, that could mean increased risk, but not inevitability," Tan says.

"There are a great many things we can do to lessen that risk."

Gary Small, director of the UCLA Longevity Center, agrees. He points to studies on identical twins, where one develops Alzheimer's and the other doesn't, and the differentiating factor is lifestyle.

"Exercise is a vital factor," Small says. "If you get your heart working more efficiently, it can pump more oxygen and nutrients to the brain. Exercise produces chemicals that get the brain cells to communicate more efficiently, and other chemicals that help you keep your focus. Exercise is anti-inflammatory, and we know that chronic inflammation contributes to dementia."

Also, more exercise means better sleep, which helps reduce the risk of dementia and obesity. "We know that a beer gut contributes to inflammation in the brain," Small says. "A healthy lifestyle helps in so many ways, and as a neuroscientist I've seen good results across the ages."

David Merrill, assistant clinical professor of psychiatry and biobehavioral sciences at UCLA's David Geffen School of Medicine, says "the most powerful evidence we have indicates that how you live and what you do is what matters."

The majority of Americans don't engage in enough physical activity, and that's the No. 1 modifiable memory-loss factor, with diet also playing a significant role, he says. His studies have focused on people 40 to 85, and show that diet affects all subjects.

Maria Saludades is assistant professor in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo, and also specializes in geriatric medicine at Buffalo's VA hospital. She says that as people age, it's normal to experience occasional memory problems. Watch to see if it starts to happen daily.

"It's important to tell your physician when you first noticed these changes, because there are many causes for dementia that are reversible if treated in time," Saludades says. "For example, if you're suffering from a B12 deficiency, that can bring on symptoms of dementia that can become more or less permanent if not addressed within two years. If we can identify and control the problems that are causing dementia, whether something like high cholesterol, diabetes or possibly interactions between medications you happen to be using, then the dementia usually halts, and even improves. But so much of it comes back to lifestyle, and that's not always a message you can get through to people."

"It's not until something goes wrong, when you feel you're not immortal, that you start listening."

Lance Frazer is a California-based freelance writer specializing in health and medicine, science, nature and the environment.



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Best of the South

With rich history, beautiful architecture and relaxing beaches, Charleston continues to draw a crowd.

Drayton Hall

Photo courtesy Charleston Area CVB

BY LYN METTLER

A walk through downtown Charleston, S.C., is like taking a stroll through time. With a wealth of homes and buildings dating to the 18th and 19th centuries, it is one of the nation's most historic cities. Virtually surrounded by water and home to several military bases, Charleston is also a top tourist destination. *Southern Living* calls it "the most polite and hospitable city in America," and in 2016 *Travel+Leisure* named it "World's Best City."

HISTORY ON FOOT The settlers who established Charles Towne in 1670 named it for King Charles II of England. A key site in both the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, the city has survived battles, fires, hurricanes and earthquakes. One of its nicknames is the Holy City, because of its many church spires dotting the skyline and early reputation for religious tolerance.

Walking through Charleston's historic downtown is the best way to get acquainted with the city and its architecture. Visitors should head down East Bay Street through Waterfront Park (don't miss its famous pineapple fountain) and following along the Battery, which looks out on Charleston Harbor.

Then head up Church Street and the cobblestone-lined Chalmers Street to stand at the Four Corners of Law at the intersection of Broad Street and the main thoroughfare of Meeting Street. Nearby King Street is also worth a stop, as an up-and-coming area with trendy shops and restaurants.

For history lovers, don't miss the Calhoun Mansion, a post-Civil War Italianate-style home; the 1808 Nathaniel Russell House; the Charleston City Market, where merchants have sold their goods since the early 1800s; the Old Exchange and Provost Dungeon, where American patriots were imprisoned during the Revolutionary War; and the campus of the College of Charleston, founded in 1770 and featured in the movie "The Patriot."

PLANTATION HOUSES Just outside of town are several old Southern plantations, including Boone Hall with its long Avenue of Oaks, which evokes the classic film "Gone With the Wind." Built in 1738, Drayton Hall is the oldest unrestored plantation house in America that is open to the public and the earliest example of Palladian architecture in the United States.



Allstate America's Best Drivers Report ranked the [cities with the safest drivers](#), considering population and frequency of accidents. Surprisingly, New York City ranked as the safest city in the country for drivers, with an average driver experiencing a collision once every 8.3 years. Others in the top 10 included Madison, Wis.; Boise, Idaho; Fort Collins, Colo.; and Laredo, Texas.

A recent report by the U.S. Travel Insurance Association found that [spending on travel insurance](#) increased from 2014 to 2016, by about 19 percent. The highest growth was for travel protection that included trip cancellation and interruption benefits.

RewardExpert.com recently announced its picks for [best U.S. cuisine cities](#) with populations fewer than 100,000. The website chose Healdsburg, Calif., in Wine Country as tops in the Pacific West; Burlington, Vt., No. 1 in the Northeast; and Tuscaloosa, Ala., as the best foodie town in the South Central region.



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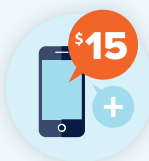
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Known for its 65 acres of landscaped gardens, Middleton Place has a main house that Union troops burned during the Civil War, but visitors can still tour the 1755 gentlemen's quarters. Then there's Magnolia Plantation and Gardens, which dates to the 1670s and is the nation's oldest public garden. In addition to the 60-acre garden, visitors can explore the pre-Revolutionary War plantation house.

SHIPS AND SHORE Charleston has no shortage of military-related attractions. Take a boat to Fort Sumter in Charleston Harbor, where the first shots of the Civil War were fired, and tour the USS *Yorktown* aircraft carrier and other vessels at Patriots Point across the river in Mount Pleasant. Include a stop at The Citadel, South Carolina's military college, which is open to the public year-round. Visit on a Friday to watch the weekly parade, usually conducted at 3:45 p.m., but check the website (www.citadel.edu) for a current schedule.

Across the Ashley River, visit the town of Folly Beach for a view of the Morris Island lighthouse, built in 1876 and now surrounded by Atlantic waters. It stood on Morris Island, where the all-black 54th Massachusetts Infantry fought a bloody battle with Confederate soldiers, depicted in the 1989 film "Glory."

BEACHES The beauty of South Carolina's Lowcountry coast is known far and wide. Several beaches in the Charleston area are ideal for relaxing, walking or even metal detecting for lost pirate treasure and military relics. Folly Beach is a laid-back community on the city's south side, while on the north side of the city, across the Cooper River, are the Isle of Palms and Sullivan's Island – both quiet communities with well-kept beaches. Kiawah Island is a popular beach in the Charleston area that's home to the high-end Kiawah Resort.

PLACES TO EAT Charleston has a reputation for great food, too. During the popular annual Charleston Wine+Food Festival, the city offers a range of Southern cuisine, fresh local seafood and modern fare. Locals pack The Mustard Seed, The Wreck of the *Richard & Charlene* and Gilligan's restaurants in Mount Pleasant, as well as Taco Boy and Rue de Jean downtown, and The Glass Onion in West Ashley. Other well-known restaurants include 82 Queen, Magnolias and Circa 1886 at the historic Wentworth Mansion.

Whether you're a history buff, on the hunt for a beautiful beach to soak up the Carolina sun or simply craving fresh seafood, you'll find it in Charleston.

Lyn Mettler is a freelance travel writer who blogs at GotoTravelGal.com.



Photo by Doug Hickok

Where to stay in Charleston

Thanks to Charleston's history and large military community, many local hotels are eager to offer discounts for those who served or are serving the nation in uniform.

The Spectator A newer addition to Charleston, this hotel has already been named the No. 1 City Hotel in the Continental U.S. by *Travel + Leisure*. Located in Charleston's historic district, it has an Art Deco design with a touch of Southern style, and offers a 20 percent discount to active military and veterans.

HarbourView Inn The only waterfront hotel in the historic district and just a few steps from Waterfront Park, the HarbourView Inn is a nautically themed boutique property that is known for its private rooftop with city views. The inn offers a 20 percent discount to active military and veterans.

Andrew Pinckney Inn This historic property was built in 1860 and named for a prominent Charlestonian. With just 41 rooms, the inn has a rooftop terrace where a complimentary continental breakfast is served daily. It offers a 20 percent discount to active military and veterans.

Do you fill your car with premium-grade gasoline? According to AAA, U.S. drivers have wasted **more than \$2 billion** on premium gas by pumping it into cars designed to take regular-grade fuel. AAA found no benefit to using premium fuel for cars that take regular.



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VA fights bans on dog experiments

BY TOM PHILPOTT

Veterans service organizations sounded alarms in July after the House of Representatives passed an appropriations bill with language banning VA from conducting painful or stressful procedures on dogs for medical research purposes, even when pain is relieved by anesthetics or other drugs.

VA contends that such procedures remain vital for advancing wounded warrior care and other critical research and that experiments are conducted humanely with careful supervision. Animal rights groups argue that such experiments are cruel and abusive and are increasingly less useful for advancing medical science.

Sen. Thad Cochran, R-Miss., chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, heard the opposition and said the Senate version of the “mini-bus” funding bill for military construction and veterans affairs would not include the ban.

That will leave the issue for a House-Senate conference committee to decide, as it irons out differences in separate versions of the bill before final passage. Meanwhile, public debate has intensified between animal rights groups and medical researchers.

Rep. David Brat, R-Va., first introduced a stand-alone bill, the Preventing Unkind and Painful Procedures and Experiments on Respected Species Act (H.R. 3197), in mid-July. Two weeks later, the House attached Brat’s bill to its Make America Secure Appropriations Act (H.R. 3219). It directed that VA not use appropriated dollars “to purchase, breed, transport, house, feed, maintain, dispose of or experiment on dogs as part of the conduct of any study assigned to pain category D or E, as defined by the Department of Agriculture.”

Category D experiments involve “potentially painful or stressful procedures for which they receive appropriate anesthetics, analgesics and/or tranquilizer drugs.” Category E are animal tests using no anesthetics, analgesics or tranquilizers, but they must be scientifically justified and approved by an institution’s or a federal agency’s Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee.

American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan urged Cochran in a Sept. 1 letter that his committee not embrace the House-passed ban. She said the Legion had reviewed VA procedures regarding live animal research and found them within recommended federal and ethical standards as established by the Department of Agriculture and the National Institutes of Health.

Rohan listed medical advances achieved using animal research and said VA’s current dog experiments might “prevent deadly lung infections in people with spinal cord injuries, develop improved systems for sensing glucose levels and delivering appropriate doses of insulin in people with diabetes, and assist with our understanding and treatment of post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury.

Stopping VA research that can only be done with dogs will mean accepting that the care we offer our veterans must be limited to what we can do now in those areas.”

Other VSOs also strongly opposed the ban. By mid-September, VA Secretary David Shulkin wrote in *USA Today* that the ban would put at risk “a better future” for seriously disabled veterans.

“Canine research works because of the distinct physical and biological characteristics humans and dogs share that other species do not,” Shulkin wrote. “For example, the electrical properties of the dog heart are very similar to those of the human heart – and unlike those of rats or mice.”

One current VA study involving dogs focuses on preventing potentially fatal lung infections that affect people with spinal cord injuries who are unable to cough effectively.

“The commercial demand for this type of study is almost nonexistent,” Shulkin said. “The patient population affected by this condition is simply too small to motivate private companies to pursue such research on their own. That’s why VA and its canine research efforts ... are so important.”

Tom Philpott has been covering military personnel and veterans issues for nearly 40 years.



Photo by Christopher Harris

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Silent Hero

Navy pilot Royce Williams shot down four Soviet MiGs during the Korean War, then followed orders to keep it quiet for a half century.

BY HENRY HOWARD

Royce Williams is a member of American Legion Post 416 in Encinitas, Calif. Photo by Sandy Huffaker Jr.

During his 37-year career in the military, Royce Williams received a number of awards, including the Silver Star, and was praised for his leadership and piloting skills.

He planned and led a successful aerial strike against the North Vietnamese, fiercely fought for proper repatriations of POW/MIAs and helped train a generation of Navy pilots.

But for all his accolades and the lives he touched, what stands out most in his august career are 35 minutes that Williams was forbidden to reveal to anyone – even his wife – for 50 years.

★ ★ ★

Williams grew up near the South Dakota-Minnesota border, spending his days fishing, playing hockey and getting into mischief. “I was a lively kid, got in my share of trouble,” he recalls.

He wanted to follow in the footsteps of his father, a machine gunner in World War I. College wasn’t in the cards, so Williams worked hard to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout – the first in his community – as a way to qualify for the Naval Academy so he could eventually become a naval aviator.

As early as age 11, Williams dreamed of a military career. That’s around the time he met Camilla “Cammie” Förde, on the first day of Sunday school at a Lutheran church. He still

remembers that day, though he says he didn’t know she would be the one until they were juniors in high school. “She sat across from me then. We started playing footsies or something.”

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor interrupted their courtship. Williams, 16, answered the call to service by joining the Minnesota State Guard. As soon as he turned 17, he signed up for the naval aviation program and started his career after graduation.

NOV. 18, 1952 Williams stayed stateside, starting his Navy career in 1943 at boot camp in Corpus Christi, Texas, and winning his wings of gold in Pensacola, Fla., in 1945. His service continued through the Korean and Vietnam wars, in which he flew no fewer than 220 combat missions.

During the Korean War, Williams served as a pilot for an F9F-5 Panther on board USS *Oriskany*. Everything changed the morning of Nov. 18, 1952.

For Lt. Williams and others in a carrier task force – three aircraft carriers and about 20 Navy ships – in the Sea of Japan off Chonjin, North Korea, the weather wasn’t ideal. “It was really a nasty day, heavy winds and snow, a big blizzard and low clouds,” Williams remembers.

Around noon, he flew out on patrol with three

others: flight leader Lt. Claire Elwood, Lt. j.g. John Middleton and Lt. j.g. Dave Rowlands. Williams was the most experienced of the pilots, charged with protecting the task force by flying a combat air patrol. Earlier that day, he had flown a combat strike against the Hoeryong industrial complex five miles from the North Korea-Soviet Union border.

As the four Panthers climbed to 12,000 feet, the Combat Information Center radioed them to warn of inbound bogies: seven Soviet MiGs.

Moments later, a warning light signaled a problem with one of Elwood's fuel pumps. He and Middleton were ordered to hold back at 15,000 feet while Williams and his wingman climbed. As they approached 26,000 feet, they located the MiGs, which were about 50 miles to the north at about 50,000 feet. The MiGs broke into two groups and turned in opposite directions in an attempt to pin the two Panthers.

"I lost sight of them when they dropped out of the contrail level," Williams says. "The controller said he lost contact with them on the radar."

That didn't last long.

Four of them, still in formation, attacked Williams and his wingman. He pulled up and went after the last MiG within range, scoring a hit. For reasons still unclear, Rowlands followed the plane as it spiraled toward the earth.

Now it was six on one.

"I pursued the remaining three while the other three are coming from the other side," Williams says. "They climbed, and I was going to go after the single – he was the closest and just lost his wingman. He pulled up and into the sun and probably 2,000 feet above me turned in, and he was right in the sun when I saw the other two already turned and headed toward me. So I turned quickly to take them on."

Williams lined up, challenging the MiG and firing until it disappeared under his wings. The remaining MiGs positioned themselves to take on Williams one at a time.

"I'm just turning, I'm just countering what they're doing and swivel-headed," he says. "I had an opportunity; a guy made a mistake. He overshot me and was level, and I came on around. I was close behind him. I opened fire, and a lot of pieces started coming off his airplane, and I had to maneuver rather drastically to avoid swallowing him. After that, I'm just back on the defense again."

Williams maneuvered into position to take out a fourth MiG – "and had him smoking. The MiG didn't maneuver but slowed and started a slight descent."

At that point, one of the MiGs "scored a 37-mm hit in the right wing stub, penetrating the engine accessories compartment," according to the official report that had been classified for half a century. Not only was Williams still outnumbered, his plane had been significantly damaged. The cable to the rudder had been severed and the hydraulic system was disabled. It was hard to fly. And Williams was out of ammunition.

He headed back toward the task force, but was still being pursued. "This guy just came around, and I can't turn," he recalls. "He's maybe 400 feet behind me just firing away. But I would push over and rounds would go over me. And I'd pull up, and they'd go under me until I got in the clouds, and I lost sight of him."

Williams considered parachuting but knew he would not survive the frigid waters. He aimed to land his plane on *Oriskany*. As he fought for control, he used gravity and pilot skill to lower the landing gear and tailhook, barreling toward the ship at nearly 200 mph.

The plane caught the wire and came to a halt, concluding an unprecedented feat in aviation. Williams' heroics likely saved the lives of his fellow pilots and prevented an attack on the entire task force.

AN UNWINNABLE BATTLE During his 24-year Navy career, Top Gun graduate Ed Riley flew all sorts of planes, including MiG-15s. He says Williams' experience was highly unusual – the Navy rarely, if ever, practices scenarios of more than four-versus-one.

"Typically, if you're in a one-versus-four, you're trying to get away from the battle," Riley says, noting that pilots will take "shots of opportunity" when possible. "You're not trying to prosecute the battle, because you know as soon as you start to prosecute someone, you're a grape for everybody else. So going one-versus-seven – you don't want to be there."

Not only was Williams outnumbered, Riley says, but he was battling superior planes. The MiGs had more thrust, flew faster and "were pretty advanced for their time," while the Panthers were fairly limited in dogfights.

Ultimately, Williams survived because of his "superior airmanship and superior bravery, throwing himself into a battle that was essentially unwinnable," Riley says.


'IT WAS AN ETERNITY' Most dogfights last about five minutes. "It was an eternity," Williams says of the 35-minute air battle.

He remained calm and focused during the intense exchange. "While I was fighting, I don't believe my adrenaline had kicked in," says Williams, who received the Silver Star the following April. "My breathing, blood pressure and so forth all remained pretty normal for what I was doing."

Waiting for his debriefing, Williams suddenly realized how tired and sweaty he was: "I'd never worked so hard at flying an airplane." Somehow, he was uninjured except for minor cuts around his neck where the gasket from his flight suit rubbed against his skin.

"I'm a God-fearing person," he offers as an explanation of how he survived the dogfight virtually unscathed. "And I had done a whole lot more training than the other guys up there."

His plane, however, bore the scars. A shipmate used a grease pencil to circle the perforations – all 263 of them. Some were minor while others were up to a foot wide. The plane was in such poor shape that the crew pushed it overboard to its final resting place.



Williams points out some of the 263 holes in his plane following the 35-minute dogfight.

Photo courtesy Royce Williams

While Williams was calming his nerves in the ready room, tensions were escalating aboard the ship and in Washington, D.C. "They're yelling to our squadron intelligence officer, 'Get in here – Washington's on the line ... they want to know now!'" A wrong move could very well have propelled the United States and the Soviet Union into World War III.

Immediately, a phony report was sent to Washington, crediting Williams with a single kill and one probable damage, while Middleton was linked with a kill and Rowlands a probable. Even though Williams "knew Rowlands never fired a shot," he was ordered to remain silent and meet with Senior Adm. Robert Briscoe when *Oriskany* reached Yokosuka, Japan, a week later.

Briscoe, commander of Far East naval forces, told Williams he would be credited with at least three kills but that he must never speak of the incident. It wasn't just the risk of dragging the Soviets into a broader conflict; the United States didn't want to reveal the existence of the brand-new National Security Agency (NSA).

Agents from NSA, which was formed Nov. 4, 1952, were secretly aboard task force member USS *Helena*. From there, the agents monitored the fight and documented at least three kills by Williams, according to the agency's report, which was declassified July 15, 2015.

SCOUT'S HONOR When Williams entered the flight in his pilot log book, his commanding officer stood by as he drew one-and-a-half Soviet flags, indicating the "official" number of kills at the time. As the years went by and the real story emerged, Williams modified the entry to reflect four Soviet flags.

But Williams never spoke of his secret as he continued his military career, serving in various capacities at home and abroad before eventually hanging up his uniform.

Finally, sometime in the 1990s, the Soviets released the names of the four pilots Williams shot down. Williams was then free to reveal his heroic actions, though he remained reticent.

Williams figured that since it happened so long ago, few people would care about it. He started by telling Cammie.

"Ohhhhhh, Royce," he says, mimicking his late wife's reaction of adulation and surprise.

Royce wasn't much interested in sharing the story, but Cammie told their family and friends. It was 2002 when Williams finally spoke about it publicly during an event at the Pensacola Naval Museum.

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As the story of Williams' feat emerged, he finally updated his pilot log book. Photo by Sandy Huffaker Jr.

How did the only American aviator to single-handedly shoot down four Soviet MiGs keep it a secret for 50 years?

"It's a puzzle," he shrugs. "I don't know. The Boy Scout in me, I guess."

FIGHTING FOR RECOGNITION As more people hear about Williams' heroics, support is growing for official recognition – something that should have happened 65 years ago.

Last summer, the South Korean government honored Williams with its Ambassador for Peace Medal. He was among the Korean War veterans who returned to a hero's welcome, meeting President Moon Jae-in, Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon and senior military leaders.

"It was wonderful," Williams says. "The South Koreans were so kind. It was so well done."

Former Navy pilot Peter-Rolf Ohnstad was amazed to learn of Williams' achievement.

"When I first heard the story, I said, 'I gotta meet this guy,'" Ohnstad remembers. "This is crazy. Unbelievable. He should've been my hero when I went through flight training. I never even heard of him. I thought, 'He lives here? He's alive? He's in Escondido? I gotta meet this guy.'"

Ohnstad and Williams are members of American Legion Post 416 in Encinitas, Calif.

"I became a member of Sons of The American Legion when I was 9 years old," Williams says.

"I wore the gray uniform, and I don't know how many times I saw 'All Quiet on the Western Front' in Legion meetings and such. My dad was a post commander in South Dakota, and when we moved to Minnesota, it continued. It was only natural when I got out (of the service) to become a member."

Ohnstad, his fellow Legionnaires and others are lobbying for Williams to be awarded the Medal of Honor. At the 99th National Convention in Reno,

Nev., the Legion's National Executive Committee approved Resolution 70, which calls for the Legion to petition Congress and the Department of Defense to so recognize Williams.

Years ago, retired Rear Adm. Doniphan B. Shelton – a combat veteran of World War II, Korea and Vietnam – became interested in Williams' story. He secured endorsements from two four-star admirals, Thomas B. Hayward and Ronald J. Hays, before asking U.S. Rep. Duncan Hunter, R-Calif., to review the case.

"There's nothing wrong with the Silver Star that they gave him, believe me, but it's not what he earned," Shelton says, referring to Williams' 35-minute dogfight nearly 65 years ago.

Shelton, who also served as a pilot, says he's never heard of an air battle similar to that of Williams; neither have naval historians. That's part of what led Shelton to research the dogfight and push Congress to award Williams the Medal of Honor. In Shelton's San Diego home, a long table overflows with what looks like a battle plan – maps, sketches and other material related to Williams' actions.

"It's a question of recognizing heroic action where heroic action should be recognized," Shelton says. "In World War II, there was a strong clamor for heroes to be recognized all the time. That was not true in Korea. Nobody gave a s**t about heroes in Korea. They kind of came back a bit in Vietnam, but not really. There's never been anything to supersede World War II from a standpoint of public support and wanting to recognize people for what they did. This remarkable aerial engagement of Royce Williams is unsurpassed before in Korea, Vietnam or since then."

Ohnstad, too, is passionate about setting the record straight for Williams so that future aviators will know what transpired Nov. 18, 1952.

"Rectifying the record and getting him the proper award – that's really what this is about," he says. "This is a story that needs to be told. It sat there for 50 years. Nobody ever talked about Royce Williams. Nobody knew who he was. We need to make sure that Top Gun aviators know, the public knows, everybody knows."

Williams, now 92, appreciates the support but is content to let others advocate on his behalf for a medal upgrade. "Wait and see ... wait and see." 🌿

Henry Howard is deputy director of The American Legion's Media and Communications Division.

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Photo by Robert Franklin

'A warm and generous heart'

Vietnam War hero James McCloughan touched lives in battle, on the ballfield.

BY HENRY HOWARD

James McCloughan was wounded by the North Vietnam army early in a two-day battle near Tam Ky where U.S. forces were outnumbered 2,000 to 89. "I should have been killed or captured five times in that battle," says the former Army medic.

After a helicopter crashed 100 meters from his position, McCloughan sprinted through heavy gunfire to rescue a severely wounded comrade and bring him to safety. As the enemy continued its assault, McCloughan rescued four other men in similar fashion. After reaching safety each time, he attended to their wounds and others in need of urgent medical care.

"A great burden was thrust upon me," he says. He refused to be evacuated due to his own injuries. "I would rather be dead than hear that one of those men died in combat because they didn't have a medic."

For his actions in the May 13-15, 1969, battle, McCloughan received the Medal of Honor earlier

this year. McCloughan, a 24-year member of American Legion Post 49 in South Haven, Mich., joins Korean War veteran Duane Dewey as post members who have received the award.

"I wear the medal for the 89 who went into this battle, whether they came out or not," McCloughan says. "And, of course, my family and the extended members of my family."

Among the soldiers he saved during the battle was Kent Nielsen. A machine gunner, Nielsen was shot in the right shoulder. The bullet missed the bone but tore apart the nerves, leaving his arm and shoulder useless.

McCloughan ran over to Nielsen, scooped him up – no easy task since they were about the same size – and carried him to safety, then began patching him up. "Without his assistance, I would have bled to death and wouldn't be here today," Nielsen says. "I owe him all kinds of debt and gratitude."

When the two men reconnected 40 years after the battle, Nielsen learned that McCloughan continued his life of service.

"It's hard to say anything other than he is a truly remarkable fellow," Nielsen says. "He's obviously heroic, but he also has a warm and generous heart. He really does look out for people. He has helped some other veterans with their PTSD issues. That's Jim. That's the kind of guy he is."

McCloughan credits many people as early influences for his battlefield heroism, as well as the leadership he displayed after the war. "I had great parents, great mentors, great schoolmates, great teammates – great people who built my character into the person you see before you today."

At Bangor High School in Bangor, Mich., McCloughan played four varsity sports, earning 11 letters. He later went on to Olivet College, where he competed in three sports, including wrestling, which he did not participate in during high school. "The first day when I walked in, I asked, 'Where are the ropes? I've seen this on TV.'"

Not only did McCloughan learn the ropes of collegiate wrestling, but he ended up winning two conference titles. "Don't tell me you can't do something," he says. "If you put your mind to it and use the skills God gave you, you can do it."

What he learned on the mat and field gave him a mental toughness for when things went sour in combat. "That sport, along with football, not only saved my life in Vietnam, it allowed me to save a lot of other lives. Was I scared? Of course. I'm not going to lie to you. But I had some brothers to take care of."

As an adult, he took care of young men in a different way. "When I came home, I said my first job for (the Legion) would be running its American Legion Baseball program, which I did for 35 summers," says McCloughan, who became the post's second vice commander a few years ago. "That will be my service to you."

Inside the post is a large collection of trophies won by McCloughan's South Haven teams.

"My fondest memory is that I did it the way it was supposed to be done," he says. "It's not about those trophies, it's about the events those young men got to participate in and the character that was built."

Several of McCloughan's players attended the Medal of Honor ceremonies in the nation's capital earlier this year, including twins Joe and Ryan Hager. They played hundreds of games of high school and Legion Baseball for McCloughan in the late 1990s, following in the footsteps of their

father, Joe, who played for him in the 1970s.

According to the Hagers, McCloughan preached confidence, urged players to play hard throughout the entire game and taught them to never be intimidated by anyone. Ryan had heard McCloughan served in Vietnam, but he knew little more than that. Rather than boasting of his heroics, the coach drew on his experience to teach players about life.

"Jim used to say that he dealt with a lot of kids our age in Vietnam and that they were in a lot worse circumstances than we are in right now," Ryan says, recalling a speech after a tough loss. "He would say, 'You guys can thank your lucky stars for the freedom you have and shake off this loss. Trust me, there are worse things you can be facing in life right now.'"

McCloughan also taught his players to be consistent and treat others with respect.

"He treated everything he coached as a way to teach a life lesson," Joe says, recalling McCoughlan's demands to never give up, regardless of opponent or the score. "He always believed in all of us. Everybody who played for him, he fought for tooth and nail."

During a game in which the team batted around one inning, Joe ended up making two outs. When McCloughan asked Joe how he could let that happen, he responded, "Coach, we're up by eight runs." That didn't matter to McCloughan – he wanted all of his players to play their best, no matter the score, no matter the opponent.

That was the motivation Joe needed. He hit a home run on his next at-bat.

McCloughan built a winning tradition in the high school. The baseball team was regularly ranked in the top 10 in the state and set various records while the Hagers played. Off the field, he worked on statistics into the early morning hours. He also advocated on behalf of his players for all-star recognitions and college opportunities. The twins went to Elmhurst College in Illinois to play for Clark Jones, another McCloughan protégé.

"He's not bashful or shy," Joe says. "But he always shied away from his own personal accolades and attention. Instead, he focused on what everybody else did. He worked hard for all of us. It doesn't matter what he gets his hands into, he's a winner." 🌿

Henry Howard is deputy director of media and communications for The American Legion.



Robert Laplander, author of *"Finding the Lost Battalion,"* wants a fuller accounting of missing U.S. servicemembers from World War I.

Photo by Darren Hauck

DOUGHBOY MIA

Wisconsin Legionnaire and his team are reopening investigations into World War I's missing Americans.

BY MATT GRILLS

They're called the "U files" – burial cards or records for the unknowns interred in U.S. World War I cemeteries overseas.

Each one has a number and specifics about the remains, including where they came from and where they went. Unfortunately, the U files were catalogued multiple times and moved around in the decades after the war, and have yet to surface. But if Robert Laplander can locate them, he'll know the final resting place of Army Pvt. Eugene McGrath and possibly other fallen Americans.

An author and expert on the Lost Battalion, Laplander has been on McGrath's tail for years. In 2001, one of the soldier's dog tags turned up at the site of the battle, and Laplander wanted to learn what happened to him.

It turned out McGrath was killed by shrapnel on Oct. 5, 1918, as elements of the 308th Infantry, 77th Division, were surrounded in the Argonne. His body was in a foxhole for three days before relief arrived. From there, it gets confusing.

McGrath was buried in grave 43 (later 87) in a temporary cemetery. No dog tags were affixed to the cross at the foot of the grave, but it did bear McGrath's initials; somebody knew who he was. Unfortunately, the cross was separated from McGrath's remains when bodies were transferred to a permanent cemetery the following spring.

"In February 1919, the McGraths sent a letter to the government asking what happened to their son," Laplander says. "The government was forced to admit it didn't know where he was, and later

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said that even though they had not managed to identify a set of remains, they were almost positive he was in one of the unknown graves at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France. The family simply had to live with that.”

Long story short: the U files likely include a cemetery address – block, row, grave number – for the remains removed from temporary grave 43/87. Find the U files, find McGrath.

‘THEY FOUND HIM’ To get this far, Laplander has had the help of cemetery officials, archivists and volunteer researchers on both sides of the Atlantic. Hopeful that together they’ll solve the McGrath case, he’s opening others, too, for a project he calls Doughboy MIA.

“What we wanted to do originally was commemorate the individuals missing from the first world war,” he says. “People tend to talk about the 116,000 who were killed, failing to realize that 4,423 of those are missing in action, lost or buried at sea. Our motto is, ‘A man is only missing if he’s forgotten.’ And these guys have been forgotten for a long time by the public at large.”

In May, Doughboy MIA had its first success, winning overdue recognition for one of America’s earliest casualties. Barely a month into the war, Navy Seaman Herbert Renshaw of Salisbury, Md., drowned when rough seas knocked him off the deck of the sub tender USS *Ozark*, where he’d been signaling another ship.

“The fact that young Renshaw was the first Maryland boy to give his life for his country will not be overlooked, and his memory will be kept among the records of the Navy Department,” the *Wicomico News* reported.

Renshaw’s name appears on local memorials but wasn’t among those compiled by the War Department and maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC). Stephen Gehnrich, a professor at Salisbury University and World War I history buff, contacted Laplander about the omission. After digging, Doughboy MIA

petitioned ABMC to add Renshaw’s name to the Tablets of the Missing at Brookwood American Cemetery in England, where most of the war’s naval casualties are listed.

“I’m so happy they found him,” Renshaw’s niece, Gail Renshaw Blackwell, told History.com on the 100th anniversary of his death. Her father also served in World War I, fighting at Alsace-Lorraine. “It’s wonderful for me, and I know my daddy would be really proud.”

Doughboy MIA has brought attention to one of the last Americans to enlist during the war, too. August Fritz Weber of Seguin, Texas, joined the Army on Sept. 4, 1918, and was en route to the Panama Canal Zone when he fell off his transport and was lost at sea. Like Renshaw, Weber’s name wasn’t on the official rolls. But because he wasn’t attached to the American Expeditionary Forces and died outside a designated war zone, he’s ineligible to be added to the Tablets of the Missing.

Even so, Laplander took the case to ABMC, which plans to add Weber’s name at Corozal American Cemetery in Panama.

“It’s so important to remember these fellows,” Laplander says. “They went

and they did their jobs, and they lost their lives. Nobody who does that should be forgotten.”

‘LUCKILY THERE’S US’ As a boy, Laplander enjoyed reading about America’s flying aces and other war exploits. He later joined the Marine Corps and pursued a career in music but never lost his interest in the Great War.

Twenty years ago, he went into a used bookstore in Milwaukee and bought a history of the 77th Division in World War I. “I spent the next couple of days with the 77th, training at Camp Upton and on the Vesle and in the Baccarat sector and then in the Argonne,” he recalls. “After I read the story of the Lost Battalion, I had questions.”

Laplander used the Internet, still in its infancy, to learn all he could about the 700 men trapped behind enemy lines in the final weeks of the war,



Missing files might reveal the grave of Pvt. Eugene McGrath, who is buried as an unknown in the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in France.

Photo courtesy Robert Laplander



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only 194 of whom came out unscathed. The more he read, the more he wanted to know, “and it kind of snowballed from there,” he says. “I had this giant pile of information and thought, ‘I should write a book on this.’”

He published “Finding the Lost Battalion” in 2006, and has updated it for the Great War’s centennial. The connections Laplander made while researching the book led to his pursuit of McGrath – and a deep desire to do right by the war’s missing Americans.

He’s talked to family members who remember visiting the home of an aunt or a grandmother but were forbidden to ask about the photo of a soldier or sailor on the mantel. The pain of losing a loved one in war is one thing; the pain of not knowing that person’s fate is something else entirely.

“Killed in action is a fact,” Laplander says. “It’s finite. It’s incontrovertible. Missing is different. Missing is a cruel hope floating over a sea of despondency threatening to sink at any time but never does.”

Concluding it had done all it could to locate missing servicemembers and identify unknowns, the U.S. government shut down investigations in the early 1930s. Only 26 Americans have been recovered in the decades since; in essence, World War I is considered a closed book.

“The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, the DPAA, does a phenomenal job, but its mission only goes back to World War II,” Laplander says. “Luckily for everybody, there’s us.”

He believes there’s room for a fuller accounting, and points to the Renshaw and McGrath cases as examples of what can be done. Between 1919 and 1924, the Graves Registration Service (GRS) processed 80,000 burials – “a crazy amount,” he says, “and they did it all with shoeboxes full of index cards and paper forms. The fact that only 4,000 of these guys are missing is a testament to the good work they did. Did some things get mixed up? Yeah. Were there paperwork errors? Sure. We have errors in coding now with computers.

“If there’s something we can do to fix it now, anything we can do, why wouldn’t we?” he asks.

In some cases, Doughboy MIA’s work might even lead to remains recovery. Laplander is looking at the file of a 1st Division soldier whose body wasn’t located when GRS looked in 1919, and again in 1926. The chaplain who buried him in a German trench initially provided coordinates that were nowhere near where the fighting occurred; later,

he marked on a map where he thought it happened, but the new coordinates were a kilometer and a half north and east of his original description.

A battlefield interpreter on Laplander’s team lives in the Netherlands and visits the Argonne frequently. He has walked the ground, report in hand, and located the area the chaplain described. “All the landmarks are there, very little has changed, and he believes he found the trench,” Laplander says.

The next step is to use metal detection or ground-penetrating radar, but to do that, Laplander will have to file forms with the French government and obtain

permission from the landowner. “We have to be sure – and I mean really sure – that we’re in the right spot,” he says. “We’ve got a couple more reconnaissance missions to do before we prepare anything, and then somebody has to pay for it.”

Up to this point, Doughboy MIA has been funded mostly through Laplander’s efforts. “We get donations here and there, but it’s nothing compared to what we need,” he says.

With Doughboy MIA becoming an official nonprofit associated with the U.S. Foundation for the Commemoration of the World Wars, there’s a greater opportunity to raise funds. Then they’ll really gain traction, says Laplander. He’s optimistic that Doughboy MIA can add a few brass rosettes to names on the Tablets of the Missing – a notation that a person has been found and identified.

“Is the possibility there?” he says. “Yeah, it’s there. If we do our work carefully and use the technologies we have at hand today, I think there’s every possibility we can recover remains from the battlefield. Will we recover a lot? Probably not. But I don’t think the number matters. I think the effort is what matters.”

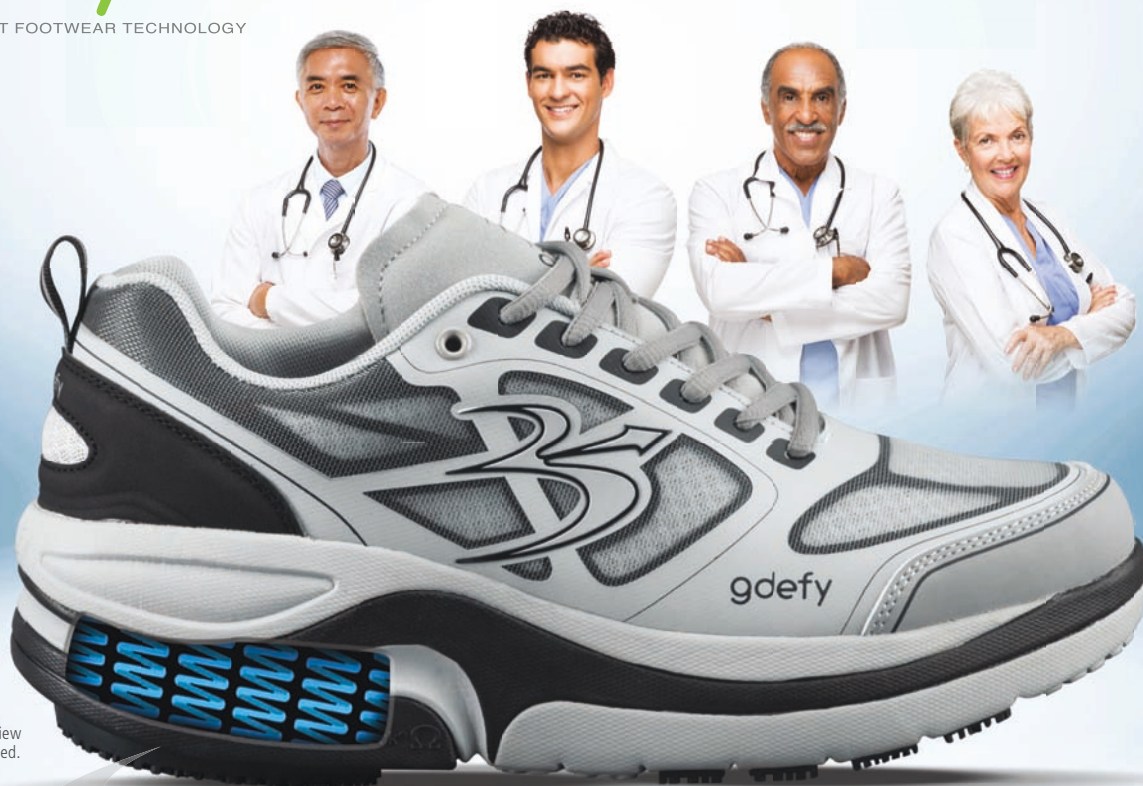


A century after he was lost overboard, Seaman Herbert Renshaw's name has been added to a monument to the missing. Photo courtesy Robert Laplander

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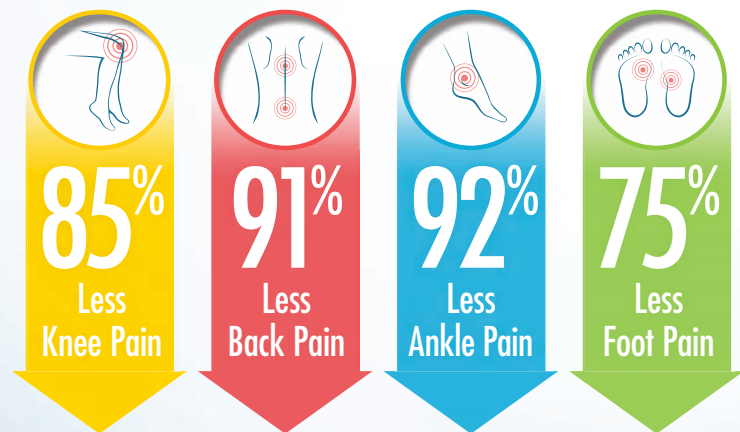
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World War I commemorative coin available in January

On Oct. 9, the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission unveiled the design of the World War I commemorative coin at the Association of the U.S. Army exposition in Washington, D.C.

The coin will be produced in limited quantities, and will be available for purchase from the Mint in January. Surcharges of \$10 per coin sold will be paid to the U.S. Foundation for the Commemoration of the World Wars. The foundation supports the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission, and will use the funds to help build the new National World War I Memorial in the capital.

The coin's obverse design, titled "Soldier's Charge," depicts an almost stonelike soldier gripping a rifle. Barbed wire twines in the lower right-hand side of the design. Inscriptions include "LIBERTY," "1918," "2018," and "IN GOD WE TRUST." The reverse design, titled "Poppies in the Wire," features abstract poppies mixed in with barbed wire.

Per authorizing legislation, the U.S. Mint hosted a design competition. The winning artist, Leroy Transfield of Orem, Utah, will receive \$10,000 and have his initials on the coin. The coin's obverse and reverse designs were sculpted by Mint sculptor-engraver Don Everhart.



Legion grant funds educator seminars

The American Legion is working with the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission and the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History (GLI) to produce a series of programs to teach educators about World War I topics.



Using a \$50,000 grant from the Legion, GLI is hosting World War I-themed "Teaching Literacy through History" seminars in six cities throughout the 2017-2018 school year: San Diego; Detroit; Anchorage, Alaska; Albuquerque, N.M.; Louisville, Ky.; and Providence, R.I. The centennial commission assists by providing curriculum content and other resources.

"Teaching Literacy through History" is a professional development program that provides teachers with tools for using primary sources in the classroom that directly benefit student understanding and performance. During these

seminars, teachers work with eminent historians to deepen their knowledge of World War I, and go back to their schools with classroom-ready lesson plans and resources.

"To bring understanding of the war and its effects – to explore where we have come and continue to go as a result of U.S. entry – is a mission that The American Legion is proud to support," says John Monahan, the Legion's representative on the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission.

'THEY GAVE EVERYTHING' As a partner of the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission, Doughboy MIA has a corner on the commission's website where it posts the latest news on cases. Even the smallest win counts – for example, figuring out there weren't two missing Marines named Thomas McDonald, one from Idaho and one from Iowa. There was only one, from Iowa. That's one less missing man.

"This isn't about publicity," Laplander says. "It isn't about anything but finding these guys and commemorating them. We're in a unique window here where we can gather all this information. We might not be able to do it in another 100 years. It might be too far gone."

He encourages family members and anyone else who might have material on a missing World War I servicemember, including photos, to contact Doughboy MIA online or join its Facebook group. All of it goes into a permanent database and, where possible, points Doughboy MIA in the direction of identifying a grave or even recovering remains.

"These men lost their lives in the first conflict where we sent a major overseas expeditionary force to fight not for land or gold but an ideal," Laplander says. "It's something we just accept today, but at that time, it was a completely new concept, and the American public really got on board with it. We honored them by putting names on their graves wherever we could, and when we couldn't we put their names on walls. To continue what they did in the 1920s is, I think, a noble endeavor."

"They gave everything. This is the least we can do." 🌿

Matt Grills is managing editor of The American Legion Magazine.

READ MORE ONLINE

Visit Doughboy MIA's webpage for a complete list of U.S. servicemembers missing from World War I, active cases, recoveries since 1934 and more.

ww1cc.org/index.php/doughboy-mia-home



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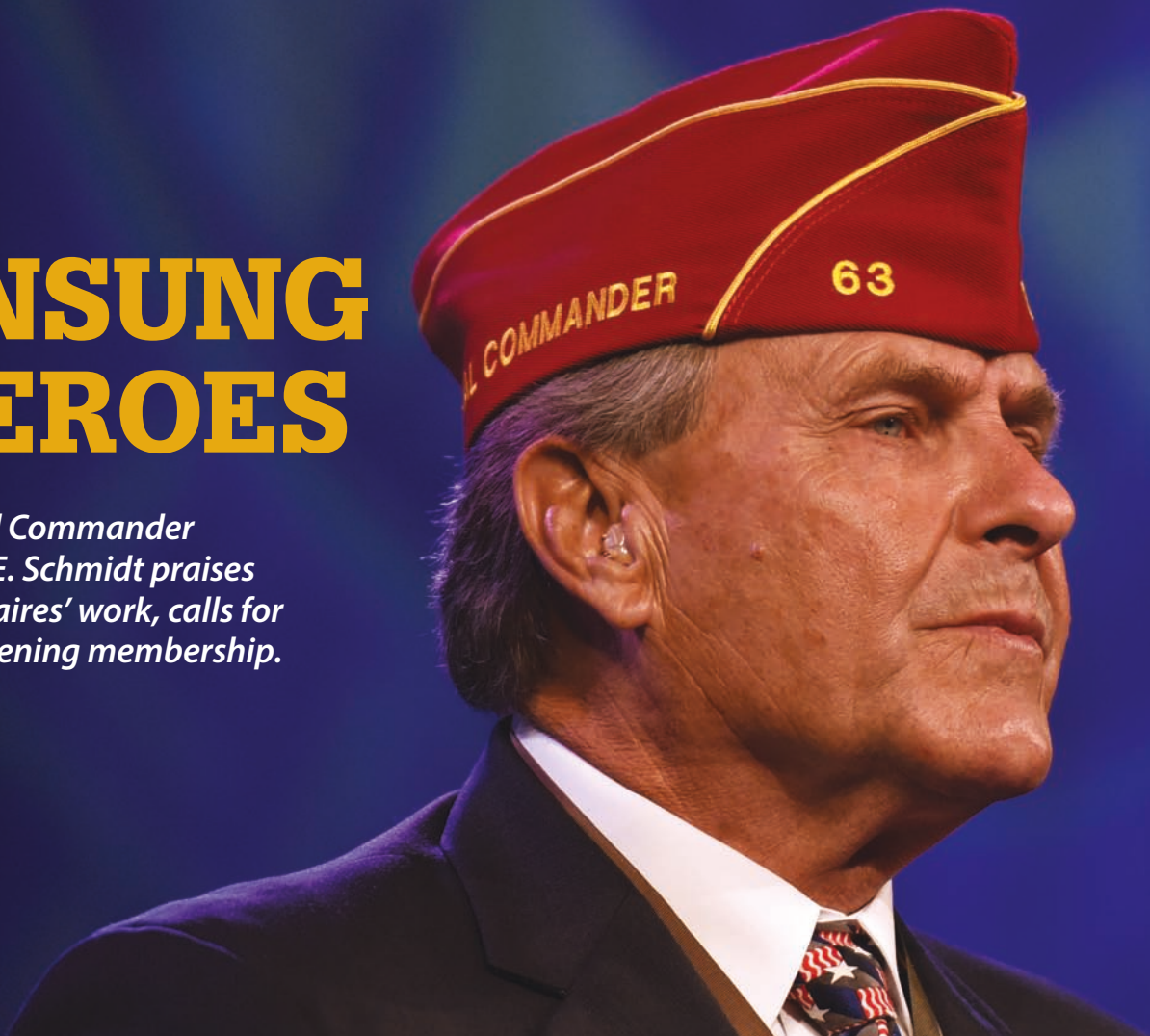
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UNSUNG HEROES

National Commander Charles E. Schmidt praises Legionnaires' work, calls for strengthening membership.



In his report to the 99th National Convention in Reno, Nev., American Legion National Commander Charles E. Schmidt said the organization's work continues to make an important and positive difference in the life of the nation. Nevertheless, recruiting new members should be an urgent priority to each and every Legionnaire.

"The reason Congress pays attention to us is because we are large, we are principled and we are altruistic," Schmidt said. "While I see no diminishment of our principles and our good works, our voice will get proportionally smaller as our numbers go down. And so will our ability to run the programs that benefit so many people and their communities."

American Legion Baseball, Boys State, Boys Nation, Oratorical contests, Junior Shooting Sports, Scouting and flag etiquette all depend on growth in the Legion's membership rolls, he said.

"Who is going to advocate for veterans, just as the doughboys returning from World War I did when they formed an organization that pledged to leave no American servicemember behind, and to ensure their widows and orphans would receive the assistance of a grateful nation?" Schmidt asked. "Who is going to lobby Congress, encourage the White House and persuade the media that America must maintain a strong national defense in order to protect our way of life?"

The Legion has been doing that for nearly a century, thanks in large part to Legionnaires at the

"You provide a future for those who have served, those who are serving and those who will serve in the communities they live in. When I look into the eyes of young servicemembers and see dedication, desire ... I know that often a Legionnaire or one of the (Legion) programs put that desire in those young folks."

Greg Pratt, USAA military relationships director





Trump: Legion embodies 'spirit of patriotism'

In his appearance at the 99th National Convention, President Donald Trump spoke to Legionnaires about various issues facing the nation, including:

Love of country: "The American Legion embodies the spirit of patriotism. That is the true source of our strength and the hope for our future."

The U.S. flag: "It is time to heal the wounds that have divided us, and to seek a new unity based on the common values that unite us. We are one people with one home and one flag."

Youth: "Every veteran here today is part of a long, unbroken chain of American heroes For generations now, The American Legion has taught young people the principles of America. You've emphasized the need to preserve the nation's cultural, moral and patriotic values. You encourage the observation of patriotic holidays. You stress the need to enforce our laws, including our immigration laws."

Recent violence: "We will never tolerate crime in our cities, bloodshed in our communities, or acts of hatred or terrorism against our citizens. We will always support our great law enforcement personnel."

Infrastructure: "We don't have to be content with a dilapidated road system, crumbling buildings or rusted out factories. We can build gleaming new highways, state-of-the-art manufacturing and modern works of wonder. And we can do it all with American workers and American iron, aluminum and steel."

Defense spending: "We are committed to expanding and improving our missile defense systems to shoot down missiles in flight. We are getting better and better at it. We will develop better surveillance and long-strike capabilities to prevent our enemies from launching them in the first place."

War on terrorism: "We will pursue an honorable outcome in Afghanistan. Our troops have already made a tremendous sacrifice. We will give the men and women in uniform the tools they need and the trust they have earned to fight and to win."

local level. "You do not have to be a famous national leader like Harry Colmery or Teddy Roosevelt Jr. to be a legend in your communities," Schmidt said. "In fact, most of the great work done by the American Legion Family is performed by unsung heroes – people whose names we don't know and probably will never know."

Schmidt asked Legionnaires to focus their recruiting efforts on those serving in the National Guard and reserves, as well as former Legionnaires who haven't renewed their memberships. He suggested using MyLegion.org to obtain a county-by-county list of those who have not re-upped.

"Make sure that every one of those former members in your post, district and department receives a personal contact – not just a form letter – from someone who cares," he said. "Find out why they left the fold and find a way to fix it. If people feel wanted and appreciated, they will renew."

Schmidt encouraged delegates to take what they learned in Reno back to their posts, districts and departments, saying he's hopeful that by working together, the organization can grow.

Legacy Run donations top \$1.2 million

The American Legion Riders rode more than 1,400 miles to Reno from Dodge City, Kan., and raised more than \$555,000 for the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund along the way.

And that was just the start. Together, the Riders and Legion Family raised more than \$667,000 on the convention floor, bringing this year's Legacy Run total to a ride record of \$1,224,653. It's the fourth straight year the ride has raised more than \$1 million.

The Department of Minnesota led the way, donating \$200,000. Other top department contributors were Missouri (\$78,241), Wisconsin (\$67,627), South Carolina (\$67,056) and Ohio (\$50,000).

American Legion Post 133 in Millbrook, Ala., donated \$15,133, while the Legion Riders from Stevens-Christian Post 557 in Wintersville, Ohio, gave \$13,500.

The Legacy Fund provides college money for the children of U.S. military personnel killed on active duty on or after 9/11, as well as children of post-9/11 veterans with a combined VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher. In 12 years, the Legacy Run has raised more than \$8 million.



Photo by Clay Lomneth



Photo by Clay Lomneth

Shulkin praises Legion's legislative heft

The Department of Veterans Affairs has improved the quality of care while reducing wait times, VA Secretary David Shulkin told Legionnaires.

"Our major priority this fall is to get the Choice Program working in a way that works better for you, takes out the red tape, and changes it from a system based on an administrator to a system that functions in a clinical way, the way it should function," Shulkin said. "That will give veterans greater choice over

their care. We're going to eliminate the 40-mile, 30-day requirement. That doesn't make sense for people who want to get health care."

He credited the Legion for helping secure passage of five major pieces of legislation, including the updated GI Bill, VA accountability and appeals modernization.

"The American Legion does fantastic work," Shulkin said. "It's an amazing organization."

Legion reaffirms stance against hate groups

In Reno, The American Legion reaffirmed its opposition – first expressed nearly a century ago – to groups that espouse racist beliefs.

The National Executive Committee unanimously affirmed **Res. 3**, "Law Enforcement and Tolerance." The original resolution No. 407 was passed in 1923, at the Legion's convention in San Francisco, and states that the Legion "considers any individual, group of individuals, or organizations, which creates, or fosters racial, religious or class strife among our people, or which takes into their own hands the enforcement of law, determination of guilt, or infliction of punishment, to be un-American, a menace to our liberties, and destructive to our fundamental law."

Res. 3 also declares "such action by any individual, groups or organizations to be inconsistent with the ideals and purposes of The American Legion."

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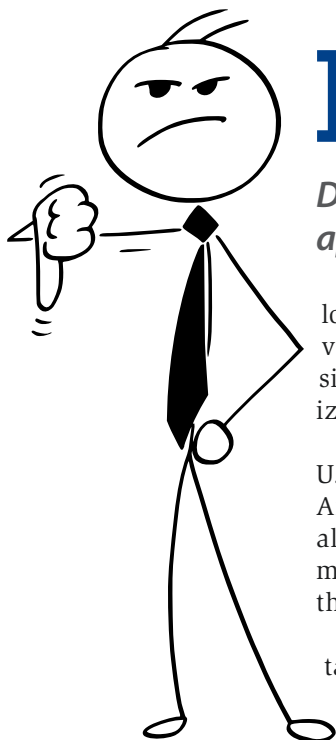


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Pick a Lane

Don't like VA's decision? Three-lane approach to appeals allows veterans to choose their own path.

Surrounded by leaders of The American Legion who have long battled to repair an outdated process for veterans who dispute VA claims decisions, President Trump signed the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 in Reno, Nev., on Aug. 23.

The signing was historic. It was the first time a U.S. president enacted a law on the stage of an American Legion national convention. It was also a landmark step to help solve a long-simmering problem that affects the lives of tens of thousands of veterans and their families.

So what, exactly is the fix, which is expected to take effect in 12 to 18 months?

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division staff and VA officials recently outlined key features of the measure, which centers on a three-lane approach to appealing a decision and clearer information in decision notifications from VA.



The Problem

- ▶ The 1933-modeled VA appeals process is a non-linear, law-based, complicated tangle of red tape unmatched by any agency in the federal government, one that provides multiple scenarios for claimants that flow into one massive reservoir of pending appeals with limited options for earlier resolutions to speed things along.
- ▶ The deadline for an appeals decision is currently undefined, so a veteran's case may take three years or more for resolution. In 2016, veterans waited an average of six years on appeals decisions.
- ▶ Veterans frequently complain that the process is difficult to understand, and those who do understand it can't easily explain it to others.
- ▶ The current appeals process, which often calls for continuous evidence collection and re-adjudication, creates a hidden claims application process of its own.
- ▶ The number of pending VA appeals decisions has soared from about 380,000 to a record high of approximately 470,000 over the past two years.

Make an appealing choice

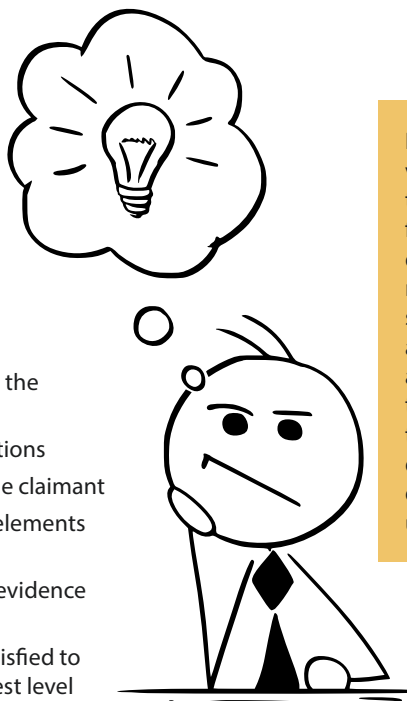
Veterans can choose one of the three lanes of appeal, empowering them to identify the route that best fits their disagreement with the decision, whether it's based on incomplete documentation, medical evidence or other variables.

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The Notification

The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 requires that decision notices contain detailed explanations of reasons, based on eight points:

1. Identification of the issues adjudicated
2. Summary of the evidence considered in the decision
3. Summary of applicable laws and regulations
4. Identification of findings favorable to the claimant
5. In the case of a denial, identification of elements that led to the decision
6. Explanation of how to obtain or access evidence used in making the decision
7. Identification of criteria that must be satisfied to grant service connection or the next-highest level of compensation
8. Information about the three available lanes of appeal, only one of which can be chosen and taken, if the veteran disputes the decision



If appealing a decision, veterans have one year from the time they are notified to file a “notice of disagreement.” The measure is a cost-neutral solution, designed to take advantage of available appeals-processing digital technology that defines three specific “lanes” designed to speed up final decisions and remove unnecessary roadblocks.

Higher Level Review Lane

- ▶ A claim decision can be reviewed for appeal and decided at one level higher than the originating office, thus avoiding the gantlet of decision-making oversight layers between the veteran and a final decision.
- ▶ Authorization for higher-level adjudicators to return the original application to the office of origin for correction of errors and feedback.

Supplemental Claim Lane

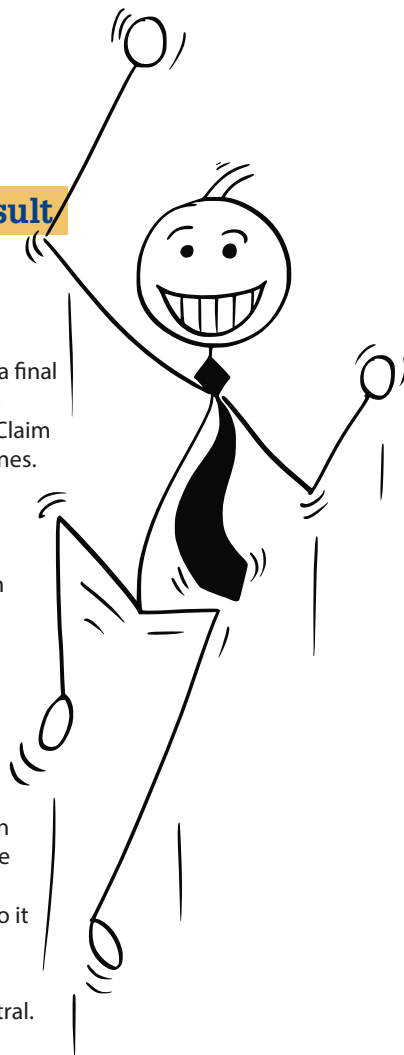
- ▶ All new evidence is submitted for a new decision.
- ▶ A veteran can add new evidence to an existing claim.

Appeal Lane

- ▶ The case moves directly to the U.S. Board of Veterans' Appeals.
- ▶ Appeal review processes at local and regional levels are bypassed, clearing a pathway to federal review.

The Expected Result

- ▶ Veterans, on average, will receive earlier resolutions to their appeals claims.
- ▶ No more than one year for a final decision, and no more than 120 days for Supplemental Claim and Higher Level Review lanes.
- ▶ Enhanced data collection and analyses will give VA a clearer understanding of hang-ups in the application and decision-making processes.
- ▶ Veterans will be able to decide early in the process whether or not they want to hire a paid representative, use an accredited American Legion service officer free of charge or a service officer from a different organization, or go it alone in their appeals.
- ▶ The approach has been determined to be cost-neutral.





The Legion's National Veterans Employment & Education Commission presented a small business summit for veteran entrepreneurs on Aug. 22. Photo by David Calvert

Veterans Employment & Education events, by the numbers

\$8 billion Contracts written by VA in fiscal 2017. Nearly \$3 billion of that went to veteran-owned businesses, according to Thomas Leney, executive director of Small and Veteran Business Programs at VA, during the VE&E-hosted small business summit in Reno.

25 Veterans who received job offers at American Legion career events during the national convention. These included a career fair, financial literacy and résumé-writing workshops, and more.

69 Percent of women who cannot cover six months' worth of expenses, as revealed at the Legion's first annual Conference for Women on Aug. 21. For men, it's 52 percent. Experts recommend having eight to 12 months' worth of expenses on hand. The conference was hosted by the Legion's Women and Minority Veteran Outreach team.

250,000 Approximate number of servicemembers, including the National Guard and reserve, who will leave the military annually over the next few years, according to the Department of Labor's Matthew Miller, who spoke at an Aug. 19 American Legion employment summit

1 million Veterans' résumés in Monster.com's database

Convention blood drive

46 Units donated during a daylong convention blood drive, conducted by United Blood Services

42 Successful donations

122 Lives potentially saved by the donations

Selected resolutions of the 99th National Convention

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

87 Supports construction of the National World War I Memorial at Pershing Park in Washington, D.C.

88 Supports construction of National Veterans Memorial and Museum in Columbus, Ohio

NATIONAL SECURITY

19 Counter the opioid epidemic for homeland security

21 Supports budget increases in military spending to reverse effects of sequestration

23 Amend Title 10, U.S. Code, to make wrongful broadcast or distribution of intimate visual images an offense subject to court-martial

27 Opposition to sanctuary cities

40 Urges Congress to publically and thoroughly investigate USS *Liberty* attack in 2017

VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

8 Expand the presumptive period for veterans who served in South Korea

13 Improve VA communication with service officers

14 Extend allotted time for claims review by service officers

76 Veterans' emergency room or urgent care facility relief

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT & EDUCATION


77 Authorizes building American Legion veterans college search tool

79 Expand VA employment pathways for greater recruitment, retention

81 Supports military spouse employment

84 Urges Congress to strengthen the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)

The full text of all resolutions passed at the convention is available in the Legion's Digital Archive:

 archive.legion.org, click on "Resolutions and Founding Documents of The American Legion"

Legion passes resolution on VA and medical marijuana

Among the resolutions passed during the convention is **No. 28**, which encourages allowing VA providers to discuss the use of medical marijuana in states that have legalized it.

The resolution cites several studies that have shown the efficacy of medical uses for the cannabis, as well as the fact that more than half of all states have passed medical marijuana laws. It naturally follows that in those states it should be an option for VA providers and patients to pursue.



Photo by Lucas Carter

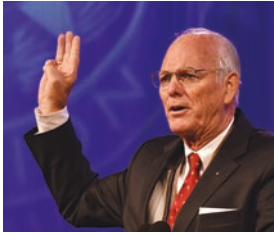
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Charles Dahlquist,
Boy Scouts of America
national commissioner



“Recruiting today cannot be left up to social media. Recruiting today cannot be left up to the Internet. It must be as it always was: personal.”

Maj. Gen. Garrett Harencak, commander, Air Force Recruiting Service, who asked Legionnaires to help bring in the next generation of U.S. servicemembers by closely working with schools and local military recruiters



Photo by Clay Lometh

MLB’s Morgan named Legion’s ‘Good Guy’

For the third consecutive year, the American Legion Past Department Commanders Club chose a Major League Baseball Hall of Famer to honor at its annual national convention luncheon.

All-time great Joe Morgan received this year’s James V. Day “Good Guy” Award, following former Cincinnati Reds teammate Johnny Bench in 2016 and former New York Yankees manager Joe Torre in 2015.

“The ‘Good Guy’ is not a baseball award, but it just so happens that a lot of baseball players are good guys,” National Commander Charles E. Schmidt said.

“Many have charitable foundations and contribute enormous time and financial resources to their communities. So it certainly is no coincidence that so many of our ‘Good Guy’ award winners over the years have been baseball players. But as great as players as these men have been, and we’ve had some all-time greats, they are even better people.”

A two-time National League MVP, Morgan has supported numerous charitable causes in his San Francisco Bay Area hometown and Cincinnati, where he made his name as one of the greatest second basemen to ever play the game. His Joe Morgan Youth Foundation provides college scholarships and financial support to programs dedicated to youth development. After retiring as a player, he began a successful broadcasting career and is the owner of the Joe Morgan Honda dealership in Monroe, Ohio.

Morgan spoke with John Raughter, the Legion’s deputy director of media relations, prior to the luncheon.

What are your memories of American Legion Baseball, and how did it help you develop as a player?

I played Babe Ruth League, I played semi-pro, and I played American Legion Baseball (Post 471, Oakland, Calif.). Every league helped me develop as a player. I think The American Legion helped me advance because it was better than Babe Ruth League, and every step I went to a higher league and I was playing against better players. It helped me progress.

What would you change about today’s game, if anything?

I wouldn’t change anything except the baseball. The ball is juiced up. And now everybody wants to hit home runs. Along with those home runs go a lot of strikeouts. And the ball is not in play a lot. You don’t hit and run, you don’t bunt. You don’t go (from) first to third very often, you don’t do all of the things that made the game great. But it’s hard to tell a guy not to hit the ball out of the ballpark when he’s going to get paid a lot of money if he hits 25, 30 home runs.

Along with that goes guys striking out 200 times, guys striking out 170 times. And the new analytics say that a strikeout is not any worse than an out, which I have a real argument with. A guy can’t score from third on a strikeout, but he can score from third with less than two outs on a fly ball or a groundout. A strikeout is not just another out. It’s a strikeout. Nothing happens. Nobody moves. So I don’t like that part of the game.

Tell us about the Joe Morgan Youth Foundation.

It started about 1970 because California passed Proposition 13. They took a lot of money from the schools, the athletic programs and after-school activities, and kids didn't have a way to play. I thought it would be a great idea to give young kids the same opportunity I had. So I started with a golf tournament and made some donations (with) other people, and we started providing athletic equipment for schools.

I think the proudest moment was when a girls basketball team called me and said they didn't have uniforms; my youth foundation was able to provide them. We provided uniforms ... bats, balls for the schools. I saw how much of an effect it had on these kids.

Then I expanded it to scholarships. I have a scholarship at Cal State in Hayward; we have maybe \$300,000 in the bank from which the interest is used for kids going there – not for P.E., baseball or basketball but for education. Kids who want to be physical education majors, we help them get through that. I don't know how many I've given over the years, but I give two specific scholarships to Castlemont High School; that's where I went to high school.


If they need more than scholarships, we find a way to get it for them. To give you an example, some of these kids are going to be going off to college and might not have the clothes to wear they need to blend in. So I just decided I would give them each a thousand dollars apiece extra to buy clothes or whatever they wanted other than scholarships for books and tuition. That's how the foundation has changed and grown over the years.

How do you feel about being the 2017 American Legion "Good Guy"?

You get in the Hall of Fame because you have numbers and do things that warrant you being a Hall of Famer. But when they put a statue of you in front of a stadium it means you were more than just a player. Anytime someone recognizes that I wasn't just a baseball player, it's important to me. (The Legion) has honored some of the greatest athletes and greatest people in this country. I feel honored to be one of them.

– John Raughter

Read the full version of this interview online:

 www.legion.org



Brain researcher earns Legion's highest award

Dr. Apostolos Georgopoulos – director of the Brain Sciences Center in the Minneapolis VA Health Care System and American Legion Family Brain Sciences Chair at the University of Minnesota – received the American Legion Distinguished Service Medal.

Georgopoulos has conducted decades of research into Gulf War Illness and traumatic brain injuries among veterans, as well as Alzheimer's disease, schizophrenia, alcohol abuse and other areas of health. The Legion's Department

of Minnesota raised \$1 million in the late 1980s to fund the Brain Sciences Chair; Georgopoulos came to the university in 1991.

"I'm tremendously honored to receive this award," Georgopoulos said. "I could not have done this without you. We have studied hundreds of veterans in (VA's) VISN 23 Network. Without them, we would not have any insight into the brain disorders or the mechanisms that are changing post-traumatic stress disorder, and especially Gulf War Illness."



Former DoD secretary receives Patriot Award

Robert M. Gates, who served as secretary of defense from 2006 to 2011 – under Republican and Democratic presidents – received the Legion's 2017 Patriot Award.

A Vietnam War Air Force veteran and member of American Legion Post 110 in Lacey, Wash., Gates serves on the Legion's 100th Anniversary Honorary Committee. He headed up the CIA, and served as president of Boy Scouts of America and Texas A&M University.

Gates said that as secretary he felt personally responsible for each servicemember in harm's way.

"I soon was telling the troops on the front lines ... that I would do everything in my power to get them the equipment they needed to accomplish their mission and to come home safely – and if wounded, to ensure they got the best care in the world.

"What I didn't expect was that I would have to fight the Pentagon bureaucracy to fulfill my pledge to those amazing young people whose selfless service and sacrifice contrasted so vividly with so many self-serving elected and non-elected officials."

Rohan asks Legion Family to 'purple up'

Immediately following her election as the first woman to lead The American Legion, National Commander Denise H. Rohan of Wisconsin challenged the entire Legion Family to come together in service to veterans, the military, their families and the nation itself.

Taking a cue from the armed forces, Rohan chose the color purple for her membership shirts. "We are joining forces as an American Legion Family," she said. "Just like all branches of the military have joined forces in the past several years, it is time for the Legion Family to 'purple up' as we all work together for the common good."

Rohan's theme for her year as national commander is "Family First!"

"Families grow through love and support for one another," she said. "As an American Legion Family, we need to treat each other in that same spirit – as part of our larger extended family."

Rohan's fundraising project will be Temporary Financial Assistance and the Legion's service officer program. The signing of the VA Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act will help fix the appeals process and backlog, she said, "but we need trained service officers to assist in getting claims properly submitted. The faster we get veterans the benefits they earned, the faster they can go on to lead happy, productive lives. It doesn't just help the veteran – it helps the entire family."



Photo by Clay Lonneth



Photo by Clay Lonneth

Auxiliary, Sons leadership for 2017-2018

Sons of The American Legion National Commander Danny Smith

Squadron: Harry Bossard Squadron 32, Papillion, Neb.

Years in SAL: 44

Eligibility: Father (Air Force, Korean War)

Membership theme: "Following Their Footsteps ... Making History"

American Legion Auxiliary National President Diane Duschek

Unit: Abendroth-Connolly Unit 282, Markesan, Wis.

Years in Auxiliary: 56

Eligibility: Father (Army, World War II)

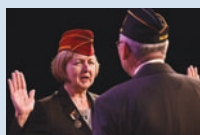
Focus: Strengthening ALA via the Centennial Strategic Plan, fundraising for the ALA Foundation Endowment Fund

Watch convention highlights online

See some of the top moments from the Reno convention, including:

- The Color Guard Contest, the National Convention Parade and the Patriotic Memorial Service
- President Trump's speech and bill-signing
- Sen. Ted Cruz receiving the First Liberty Institute's Religious Liberty Award
- The historic election of Denise Rohan as national commander

www.legion.org/legiontv



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*Stan W. US war veteran
and retired professor*



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2017 AWARD RECIPIENTS

Distinguished Service Medal

Dr. Apostolos P. Georgopoulos

Patriot Award

Robert M. Gates

National Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

Joseph Rowley
Michigan State Police,
Gladwin, Mich.

National Firefighter of the Year

Darren Ware
Prince George's County
Fire/EMS, Waldorf, Md.

Ralph T. O'Neil Education Trophy

For greatest activity in use of American Legion School Medal Awards
Department of Delaware

Daniel J. O'Connor Americanism Trophy

For best all-around Americanism activities
Department of Virginia

National Recruiter of the Year

Patricia E. Liddell
Columbus, Ga.

Race to the Top Winners

Roger L. Archibald
Spanish Fork, Utah
John W. Griffin
Milledgeville, Ga.
Edwin B. Long Jr.
St. Clairsville, Ohio

Consolidated Post Report Winners

Departments of Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin



Frank N. Belgrano Trophy

For support of Boy Scouts of America
Department of Missouri

Garland D. Murphy Jr. Award

Based on actual contributions received during the 2016-2017 American Legion Child Welfare Foundation year
Department of Arizona

U.S. "Udie" Grant Legacy Award

Based on combined total donations of American Legion Family to the Child Welfare Foundation
Department of Arizona

William F. Lenker National Service Trophy

For best supporting and implementing programs to benefit veterans and their families
Department of Montana

Fourth Estate Award

PRINT
Arizona Republic
Phoenix

BROADCAST
KTVU Fox 2
Oakland, Calif.

NEW MEDIA
Clarion-Ledger
Jackson, Miss.

National Commander's Media & Communications Award

Mike Rowe
Santa Monica, Calif.

O.L. Bodenhamer Trophy

No. 1 in membership at June report
Department of Montana

Employer of the Year

For companies and businesses dedicated to hiring veterans

SMALL BUSINESS
Precision Moulding & Woodworks, Inc.
New Bern, N.C.

MID-SIZED BUSINESS
Lowe's Home Improvement Center, Inc.
Rapid City, S.D.

LARGE BUSINESS
Sansone Auto Mall
Avenel, N.J.

Enhance the Lives of the Disabled Award

Lone Survivor Foundation
Houston

Employer of Older Workers Award

Ken's Super Fair Foods & Shell Express
Aberdeen, S.D.

Homeless Veterans Outreach Award

Jim Costello
Bellevue, Neb.

Employment Service Local Office Award

Eau Claire Job Center
Eau Claire, Wis.

Local Veterans Employment Representative of the Year

Reginald Parker
Houston

Disabled Veterans Outreach Program Specialist of the Year

Bradley Aune
 Fargo, N.D.

Color Guard Contests

MILITARY CLASS
George Whiteman Memorial Post 642
Sedalia, Mo.

MILITARY OPEN CLASS
Newport Harbor Post 291
Newport Beach, Calif.

ADVANCING/RETRIEVING COLORS CLASS
Newport Harbor Post 291
Newport Beach, Calif.

Spirit of Service

MARINE CORPS

Cpl. Justin Ahasteen

ARMY

Spc. Virginia A. Constable

AIR FORCE

Senior Airman Kalynn L. Mitchell

AIR NATIONAL GUARD

Senior Airman Allanesha J. Smith

NAVY

Petty Officer 2nd Class Robin N. Stephens

COAST GUARD

Health Services Technician 2nd Class Jordan N. Suchon

2017 YOUTH CHAMPIONS

ORATORICAL CHAMPION

Andrew Steinberg
Newton, Mass.

BOYS NATION PRESIDENT

Darius Thomas
Phenix City, Ala.

EAGLE SCOUT OF THE YEAR

Scott Moore Jr.
Clarksville, Tenn.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS PRECISION CHAMPION

Emily Stith
Colorado Springs, Colo.

JUNIOR SHOOTING SPORTS SPORTER CHAMPION

Hailey Smith
Winthrop Harbor, Ill.

2016 BASEBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Will Smith
Texarkana, Ark.

2016 BASEBALL ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM CAPTAIN

Adam Conway
Chester, Va.



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Roster for a new Legion year

BOBBY D. BRYANT *National Vice Commander*



HOME: Maramec, Okla.
MEMBERSHIP: 9 years, Post 108
MILITARY SERVICE: Navy (1965-1969)
LEGION HIGHLIGHTS: Post adj., post cmdr.,

dist. cmdr., dept. vice cmdr., dept. cmdr.
NATIONAL POSITIONS: Internal Affairs Liaison, Membership & Post Activities Cmte., Nat'l Exec. Cmte.
REGION: Alabama, Arkansas, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia

BYRON I. CALLIES *National Vice Commander*



HOME: Watertown, S.D.
MEMBERSHIP: 46 years, Post 17
MILITARY SERVICE: Army, National Guard (1965-2006)
LEGION HIGHLIGHTS: Post

adj., cnty. cmdr., dist. cmdr., dept. vice cmdr., dept. chaplain, dept. cmdr.
NATIONAL POSITIONS: Legislative Cncl., Americanism Cncl., Cmte. on Children & Youth
REGION: Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

WILLIAM J. FLANAGAN *National Vice Commander*



HOME: New Baden, Ill.
MEMBERSHIP: 52 years, Post 321
MILITARY SERVICE: Air Force (1963-1967)
LEGION HIGHLIGHTS: Post adj., dept. vice

cmdr., dept. sgt.-at-arms, dept. cmdr.
NATIONAL POSITIONS: Nat'l Security Liaison, Distinguished Guests Cmte., Foreign Relations Cmsn./Cmte., Nat'l Exec. Cmte., National Commander's Aide
REGION: Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia, Wisconsin

LARRY J. MARCOUILLIER *National Vice Commander*



HOME: Harrington, Del.
MEMBERSHIP: 31 years, Post 7
MILITARY SERVICE: Air Force (1970-1990)
LEGION HIGHLIGHTS: Post adj., post cmdr.,

dist. cmdr., dept. vice cmdr., dept. cmdr.
National positions: Distinguished Guests Cmte., Foreign Relations Cmsn./Cncl., Media & Communications Cmsn., Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt.
REGION: Connecticut, Delaware, France, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont

PAULA R. STEPHENSON *National Vice Commander*



HOME: Fruit Heights, Utah
MEMBERSHIP: 27 years, Post 27
MILITARY SERVICE: Army, Army Reserve (1971-1975, 1977-2005)

LEGION HIGHLIGHTS: Post adj., post cmdr., dept. historian, dept. vice cmdr., dept. cmdr.
NATIONAL POSITIONS: Legislative Cncl., Veterans Education, Other Benefits & Homelessness Cmte.
REGION: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Mexico, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Philippines, Utah, Washington, Wyoming



The 2017-2018 national vice commanders join National Commander Denise H. Rohan, center, on stage following their election at the Reno convention.

Photo by Clay Lomneth

ROBERT A. VICK *National Chaplain*



HOME: New Port Richey, Fla.
MEMBERSHIP: 35 years, Post 79
MILITARY SERVICE: Navy (1952-1960)
LEGION HIGHLIGHTS: Dept. chaplain

RICHARD T. DUBAY *National Historian*



HOME: Mount Clemens, Mich.
MEMBERSHIP: 32 years, Post 4
MILITARY SERVICE: Air Force (1966-1969)
LEGION HIGHLIGHTS: Dist. cmdr., dept.

historian, dept. vice cmdr.
NATIONAL POSITIONS: Legislative Cncl., Nat'l Security Cncl.

ROY A. HELMS *National Sergeant-at-Arms*



HOME: Oshkosh, Wis.
MEMBERSHIP: 18 years, Post 70
MILITARY SERVICE: Marine Corps (1974-1978)
LEGION HIGHLIGHTS: Post

adj., post cmdr., dist. cmdr., dept. vice cmdr.
NATIONAL POSITIONS: Americanism Cncl., Legislative Cncl., Distinguished Guests Cmte.

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PNC David Rehbein, left, and John Monahan, the Legion's representative on the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission, place American Legion and World War I centennial coins on the grave of Thomas W. Miller. Photo by Holly K. Soria

Centennial workshops urge posts to locate founders' graves

David Rehbein, chairman of The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee, spent time during the Reno convention scrubbing, polishing and trimming the grass around the grave of Thomas W. Miller, a World War I lieutenant colonel who helped found the Legion in 1919. Afterward, several national and state Legion dignitaries gathered for a ceremony there, placing centennial coins atop the grave and planting U.S. and American Legion flags beside it.

The experience gave Rehbein, a past national commander, an idea.

"I want to encourage posts all across the country and beyond to locate the grave of their first commander and see if it needs attention," he said. "That's a

great post centennial activity that doesn't have to cost a lot of money or require a lot of travel. It's also a great opportunity for the post to alert the local media and tell the story of its founding generation – which, in many cases, is a World War I story that can be told as we recognize that centennial."

Rehbein chaired two centennial workshops during the convention and urged attendees to research their post namesakes. Around 2,600 American Legion posts have started profiles on the Legion's centennial website, www.legion.org/centennial.

"We really want more posts to jump in and provide their histories online so that they can be shared with the public in their communities," Rehbein said.



Photo by Clay Lomneth

WWI commissioner on memorial, effects of war

Jack Monahan, The American Legion's representative on the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission, described the world-changing effects of the Great War and gave an update on the progress of the National World War I Memorial at Pershing Park in Washington, D.C.

A member of LaPlace-Champlin Post 18 in Essex, Conn., Monahan said the war's centennial and the Legion's legacy are intertwined: "Why is this important to The American Legion? The spirit of the doughboy – his courage, character, values and ideals – was the spirit, tempered in the crucible of combat, that formed the values of The American Legion. We Legionnaires stand on the shoulders of the giants who were our founders, all World War I veterans."



Photo by Clay Lomneth

Monument to Gold Star families in development

Judith Young, chairman of the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation, anticipates a groundbreaking for the Gold Star Mothers Family Monument at Arlington National Cemetery sometime next year.

The initial architectural design includes a statue of a mother receiving a telegram bearing news of her child's death. It would face the cemetery's graves, alongside panels with bronze reliefs describing the history of the Gold Star and honoring families.

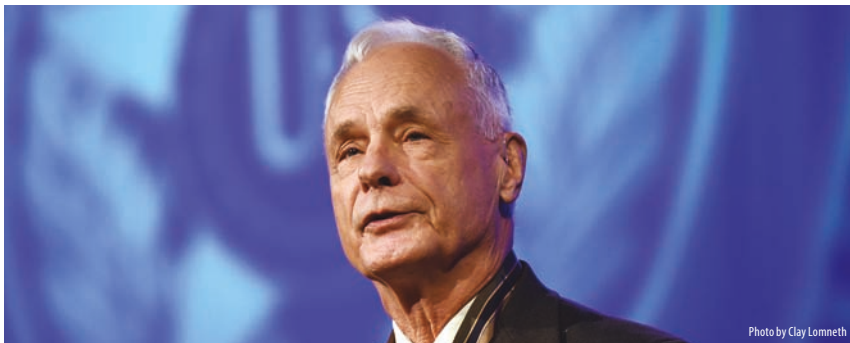


Photo by Clay Lomneth

Moe: National veterans museum to open next summer

Retired Col. Tom Moe, a member of American Legion Post 11 in Lancaster, Ohio, said the National Veterans Memorial and Museum will open next summer on seven riverfront acres in Columbus, Ohio. A total of \$77 million has been raised for the project.

"There has been no single museum dedicated to honoring the veteran's

experience in this country until now," Moe said. "This memorial also honors those who died in service, those who could never enjoy – as a civilian – the fruits of their service and sacrifice."

A veterans advisory committee representing all branches of service and war eras helped develop the museum's concept.

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Navy



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“I’m not going to let this place close. I refuse.”

Bob Grinis, adjutant of Post 11 in Arcadia, Fla., which was flooded when the rains spawned by Hurricane Irma swelled the nearby Peace River.

“We’re coming back,” he says. Photo by Clay Lometh

DISASTER RELIEF

STORM OF SUPPORT

Hurricanes Harvey and Irma delivered a one-two punch to the southeastern United States in late August and early September, leaving thousands in urgent need of relief and aid. Before the extent of the storms’ devastation was known, American Legion posts nationwide began collecting monetary donations, sending emergency items and contributing to the Legion’s National Emergency Fund (NEF). Meanwhile, posts in Texas and Florida served as temporary shelters and distribution centers for food, water, clothing and toiletries. “Supplies have been coming from posts across the country,” said Butch Sparks, Texas National Executive Committeeman and finance officer for Post 490 in Houston. “As soon as we get them, they go to people in the community who need them.”

Several posts, including Post 333 in Key Largo, Fla., and Post 11 in Arcadia, Fla., suffered tremendous damage. Hundreds of members of the Legion Family, too, returned to damaged or destroyed homes. As they rebuild, grants from the Legion’s NEF will help meet immediate needs and prevent posts from closing.

Go online for stories, photos and video coverage of relief efforts:

 www.legion.org/nef



At Post 490 in Houston, Ulysses Robertson helps unload a 26-foot truck full of donations from the Department of Alabama. Photo by Todd Spoth



Photo by John Raughter

“I like it here. These are the type of people I want my children to grow up around.”

Leonardo Garcia, who was staying at American Legion Post 658 in Crosby, Texas, after fleeing from his submerged Jeep with his family. Floodwaters entered their vehicle as they were evacuating Port Arthur.

“A lot of posts took direct hits
They're doing the best they can.
They'll overcome it.”

Department of Florida Commander Steve Shuga, who traveled to Post 43 in Homestead to deliver bottled water, nonperishable foods and other supplies for distribution

RIGHT: Michael McDaniell, Department of Florida adjutant, loads cases of water bottles onto a truck in Orlando. Photo by Clay Lomneth



“Make no mistake of the generosity and
commitment of our American Legion
Family. We just don't say the words, we
live them – we do change lives.”

Department of Indiana Commander Marty Dziegłowicz, on hurricane relief efforts at the state's Legion Day event on Sept. 10. Legionnaires collected more than \$15,000 in monetary donations, as well as emergency supplies like water, bleach, diapers and baby formula.

“It's going to take a long time to
recover from this. I just thank God
(the Legion is) here to help.”

Norman Mordeau, a homeless veteran who went to Post 1 in Titusville, Fla., for help in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma. Mordeau lost what he had in the storm, and the post provided a new tent and place for him to sleep.



ABOVE: Indiana Department Commander Marty Dziegłowicz accepts a \$1,000 check for hurricane relief from Post 182 in New Palestine, Ind., at Legion Day on Sept. 10. **RIGHT:** Garden Oaks Post 560 Commander Charlie Powers, right, and 8th District Commander Richard Voorhies sort donations in Houston. **BELOW:** JoAnn Collins, membership director at Post 400 in Orlando, right, and Amanda Gribschaw organize supplies donated to the Department of Florida headquarters after Hurricane Irma's strike on the Gulf Coast.





Photo by Todd Spoth

“It’s been a wild ride, almost 24/7 for the past eight days. We cooked over a thousand meals.”

Charlie Powers, commander of Garden Oaks Post 560 in Houston, which became a delivery hub for food, emergency supplies and other assistance for flood victims

“We aren’t interested in just helping our members or even veterans. We are helping everybody.”

Gary Alston, commander of American Legion Post 658 in Crosby, Texas, which served as the town’s main emergency shelter for victims of Hurricane Harvey. Alston and his family had to evacuate their home and stay at the post.

“We have been working nonstop to help people throughout the region.”

Department of Texas Commander John Hince, whose home post, Post 169 in Bryan, housed members of the Arkansas National Guard before they dispersed to storm-affected areas of the state



Photo by Clay Lonneth



Photo by Todd Spoth

TOP: Auxiliary member Johnnie Nichols, left, and Sons of The American Legion member Johnny Rojas prepare batches of venison spaghetti for first responders at Post 560 in Houston.

ABOVE: Stacks of donated clothing await sorting at Post 490 in Houston.

LEFT: Auxiliary member Cindi Taylor points out damage to Post 333 in Key Largo, Fla.



HOW TO GIVE, APPLY FOR HELP

In the wake of hurricanes Harvey and Irma, nearly \$142,000 in donations has poured into the Legion’s National Emergency Fund. Since 1989, the NEF has provided more than \$9 million in direct financial assistance to Legion Family members and posts affected by natural disasters. Grants of \$3,000 are awarded to eligible individuals and \$10,000 to posts. Go online to donate or apply for aid. www.legion.org/nef

The Legion’s Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) program assists Legion-eligible veterans with minor children who need financial help to pay for shelter, food, utilities and medical expenses. www.legion.org/tfa

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Photo by John West

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The American Legion Family's legacy of service, advocacy, patriotism and mentorship will continue to grow into its second century as long as membership increases, too. Now that a new membership year is upon us, help carry the legacy forward by renewing, reminding others to renew, recruiting new members to the American Legion Family and, where appropriate, revitalizing or chartering new posts.

The application forms on the adjacent page are provided so you can sign up a new member, collect dues, and help us all grow together heading into our centennial celebration.

Remember, it's also easy to renew and pay membership dues online at www.legion.org/renew.

Let's all work together now to grow membership for the future.

HOW TO USE THIS FORM

1

TEAR OUT PAGE 63 and take it with you wherever you go. Keep it in your wallet, bag or car so it's ready when you need it.

2

FIND AN ELIGIBLE MEMBER Look for clues like flags, hats or car decals that might identify a veteran, introduce yourself and ask them to join us.

3

SIGN THEM UP Fill out the membership form, collect dues appropriate to your post, squadron or unit, and deliver it to your membership officer.

GET MORE MEMBERSHIP RESOURCES ONLINE: www.legion.org/membership



THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____
First Initial Last Phone

Address _____
Street City State ZIP

Membership ID# former member Email Post # Date

Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War/War on Terrorism
(8/2/90 until cessation of hostilities) | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama (12/20/89-1/31/90) | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada (8/24/82-7/31/84) | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam (2/28/61-5/7/75) | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Korea (6/25/50-1/31/55) | <input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWII (12/7/41-12/31/46) | <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (12/7/41-12/31/46 - only eligibility) |

I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.

Signed by applicant _____ Name of recruiter _____

If you are a new member, send this completed application with annual dues to The American Legion, Attn: Membership, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206 (check www.legion.org/join for dues amount), or take it to a local post. To locate a post near you, click on "Find a Post" at www.legion.org.

D17010



DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date _____
Received from _____
\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues
Recruiter's name _____
Recruiter's signature _____
Recruiter's phone # _____



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Date _____

Detachment of _____ Squadron No. _____ Birth date _____

Name _____ Recruited by _____
First Initial Last Initial Last

Address _____
Street City State ZIP Phone

Veteran through whom eligibility is established _____

(a) Above is a member in good standing of Post No. _____ Department of _____

OR (b) Above is a deceased veteran who served honorably from _____ to _____

(c) Relationship of applicant to veteran _____

Has applicant previously been a member of the SAL? _____ Where? _____

I hereby subscribe to the Constitution of the Sons of The American Legion and apply for membership.

Email _____ Transmit \$ _____ for 20 _____ annual membership dues

Signed by applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Eligibility certified by _____

Mail completed application to Sons of The American Legion department/state headquarters. Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due. For current detachment address, go to The American Legion department/state headquarters, or visit www.legion.org.

D17010



DUES RECEIPT (please print)

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Squadron No. _____
Department of _____



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY – MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

APPLICANT INFORMATION

Name _____
First Initial Last

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Home phone _____ Cell phone _____

Email _____ Unit # and Location _____

/ / _____ Birth - 17 _____ 18 and older

Have you been a member previously? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Signature of applicant (or legal guardian if under 18) _____ Date _____

Mail completed application to American Legion Auxiliary department/state headquarters.

Annual dues must accompany completed application. Ask local contact for amount due.

For current department address go to: www.ALAforVeterans.org.

Dues include a yearly non-refundable allocation of \$3.40 for American Legion Auxiliary magazine.

Membership pending approval of application.

ELIGIBILITY INFORMATION

Eligible through / name of veteran (if living, must be American Legion member) ☐ Living ☐ Deceased

American Legion member ID # _____

Veteran's American Legion post name _____ Post # _____ City _____ State _____

Veteran served: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> WWI (4/6/17-11/11/18) | <input type="checkbox"/> WWII (12/7/41-12/31/46) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (12/7/41-12/31/46) | <input type="checkbox"/> Korea (6/25/50-1/31/55) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam (2/28/61-5/7/75) | <input type="checkbox"/> Lebanon/Grenada (8/24/82-7/31/84) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Panama (12/20/89-1/31/90) | <input type="checkbox"/> Gulf War/War on Terrorism
(8/2/90 until cessation of hostilities) |

Applicant's relationship to the veteran:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mother | <input type="checkbox"/> Wife | <input type="checkbox"/> Daughter | <input type="checkbox"/> Sister |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grandmother | <input type="checkbox"/> Granddaughter | <input type="checkbox"/> Great-granddaughter | <input type="checkbox"/> Self |

I certify that the above named individual served at least one day of active duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or is still serving honorably.

Post adjutant/officer membership verification _____ ALA 08/2016 _____ Date _____



DUES RECEIPT (please print)

Date _____
Received from _____
\$ _____ for 20 _____ dues
Recruiter's name _____
Recruiter's signature _____
Recruiter's phone # _____



Hollywood Post 43 and the Los Angeles Eschscholtzia Daughters of the American Revolution chapter renovated a World War I memorial in Elysian Park. The project received a matching grant through the 100 Cities/100 Memorials program. Photo by Jon Endow

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

100 CITIES/100 MEMORIALS ANNOUNCES GRANTS

Several American Legion posts will receive matching grants of up to \$2,000 toward the restoration and maintenance of local World War I monuments and memorials.

On Sept. 27, the 100 Cities/100 Memorials program named its first 50 awardees and opened a new submission period. Valid entries not selected in the first round are automatically entered in the second round, which runs through Jan. 15.

The memorials selected are in 28 states and “represent an important part of remembering our past and preserving our culture,” said Terry Hamby, commissioner for the U.S. World War One Centennial Commission. The goal is twofold: to restore memorials’ physical beauty, and to heighten awareness of World War I’s effect on modern society.

The 100 Cities/100 Memorials program sponsors are the centennial commission and the Pritzker Military Museum and Library in Chicago. The American Legion is a supporting organization.

To be eligible for matching funds, memorial work must be completed by Nov. 11, 2018, the 100th anniversary of the day fighting ceased. The remaining 50 awardees will be announced April 6.

The U.S. World War One Centennial Commission resolved to designate the awarded memorials as “centennial memorials,” and to make that an official national designation. All awardees will receive certificates to that effect, along with bronze medallions suitable for affixing to the memorials.

“By designating 100 World War I memorials across the nation, we believe the breadth and scope of this initiative will have a ripple effect beyond these 100 centennial memorials,” said Ken Clarke, Pritzker president and CEO. “By restoring these monuments and memorials – whether it is a simple project like landscaping, cleaning, or making significant repairs – as a nation, we honor the names of those who served and the history of the communities where they lived.”

AWARDEES

Baldwin World War I Memorial

Post 246 and community, Baldwin, N.Y.

Burlington City Sons of The American Legion Rock of the Marne

Capt. James MacFarland Post 79 and Squadron 79, Burlington, N.J., and BC Rocks of the Marne

Carmel-by-the-Sea World War I Memorial Arch

Post 512, Carmel-by-the-Sea, Calif.

Chinese Americans Veterans Memorial

Cathay Post 384, VFW Post 4618 and San Francisco Recreation & Parks Department

Gold Star Memorial at Guthrie Park

Post 488 and Village of Riverside, Ill.

Gosman Statue

Beaverhead Post 20, Dillon, Mont.

Memorial Tablet at Victory Memorial Grove

Eschscholtzia DAR Chapter and Hollywood Post 43, Los Angeles

Miantonomi Memorial Park Tower

Post 7, Miantonomi Memorial Park Commission, Newport Open Space Partnership and City of Newport, R.I.

Pierson World War I Monument

Harrison F. Pedersen Post 291, Pierson, Iowa

USS Tampa Memorial Window

Post 5, Tampa, Fla., and USS Tampa 100 Committee

World War I Doughboy Memorial

Althenthal-Joerns Post 158, Jackson, Mo.

World War I Doughboy Monument

Baker-Merrill Post 9 and Weber County Historical Society, Ogden, Utah

See a complete list of the first 50 awardees for the 100 Cities/100 Memorials program:

www1cc.org/100memorials

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Alan Barto, a member of American Legion Post 2001, waves to the crowd during the 2016 New York City Veterans Day Parade. Photo by Amy C. Elliott

HONOR

Rohan, Legion Family to march in nation's largest Veterans Day Parade

The American Legion will again have a major presence in the nation's largest Veterans Day parade.

The New York City Veterans Day Parade will take place Nov. 11, running along Fifth Avenue from 26th Street to 52nd Street. More than 300 units and 10,000-plus marchers will participate in the parade, including American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan and a contingent of American Legion Family members.

Former astronaut and Air Force veteran Buzz Aldrin, one of the first men on the moon, will serve as the parade's grand marshal. This year's parade marks the centennial of the U.S. entry into World War I, while the U.S. Air Force is this year's featured service. The parade begins at approximately 11:15 a.m. and finishes at 3:30 p.m.

A wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the Eternal Light at nearby Madison Square Park prior to the parade, followed by a veterans street fair and other activities.

The parade will be broadcast live on PIX 11 from noon to 3 p.m. It will also be shown on the American Forces Network and streamed online at Military.com.

uwvc.org/vetsday2017/parade-details



ACTIVE DUTY

Sharp shot

A Canadian sniper serving in Iraq recently neutralized an ISIS fighter from a distance of 11,319 feet – that's more than two miles – shattering the previous distance record for a sniper kill of 8,120 feet.

The Canadian sniper was deployed as part of an advise-and-assist mission and fired his record-setting shot when Iraqi personnel came under attack, the *Daily Mail* reports. The bullet, fired from a McMillan TAC-50 rifle, traveled 2.14 miles in 10 seconds. The shot was confirmed by video evidence. "The sniper has not been named for security reasons," according to the paper.

The previous record for a sniper killshot was held by a British soldier deployed to Afghanistan.

MILITARY AFFAIRS

GAO: Time to rebalance, rebuild

A new General Accounting Office (GAO) study concludes that the result of the nation's current state of readiness is that military forces "are not strong enough to protect vital U.S. national security interests from worldwide threats." The top of the threat list includes "Russian aggression in Europe and North Korea's provocative threats in the Asia-Pacific."

As *USA Today* reports, the study also cites cyberspace threats, escalating costs of weapons and health care, and better management of the military's people and business practices as key challenges.

According to the GAO report, only two-thirds of the troops the Army needs at the outset of a high-end conflict are at acceptable levels of readiness. Air Force readiness is at "historically low levels, with less than 50 percent of forces at acceptable readiness levels and shortages of over 1,500 pilots and 3,400 aircraft maintainers."

The Navy is facing "increasing maintenance challenges," with only 28 percent of scheduled maintenance completed on time between 2011 and 2014. Marine aviation units face "acute readiness problems," with some 80 percent of Marine aviation units falling short of the minimum number of aircraft ready for training. GAO urges policymakers to "rebalance forces and rebuild readiness."

gao.gov/products/GAO-17-369



U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Master Sgt. John Rohrer



GALLERY

VA Deputy Secretary Scott Blackburn, center, visits "The Greatest Legislation: An American Legion Centennial Salute to the GI Bill," a traveling exhibit on display through mid-December at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans. The exhibit traces the story of the GI Bill since The American Legion drove it to passage as the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, through its many effects on U.S. and global economy and security, most recently to reflect the passage and signing into law of the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2017, the "Forever GI Bill," named for the American Legion past national commander known as the architect of the original legislation. The exhibit features illustrated panels, video kiosks and artifacts. Photo by Matthew Hinton

ACTIVE DUTY

U.S. units train near Russian-occupied Georgia

In July and August, U.S. soldiers trained Georgian troops just miles away from where Russian forces are based, occupying a region of Georgia seized during the brief 2008 Russia-Georgia war.

Known as Exercise Noble Partner, the mission involved 2,800 troops, as *Stars and Stripes* reports. Led by U.S. Army-Europe, it included units from Georgia, Armenia, Germany, Slovenia, Turkey, Ukraine and Britain. These NATO allies and partner nations helped their Georgian counterparts with defensive tank maneuvers and artillery fire.

U.S. personnel passed within several hundred meters of Russian troops as they traveled to a training base near Tbilisi, according to *Stars and Stripes*. "We're not here to be provocative," Col. Patrick Ellis said. "We're here to train the Georgians how to defend themselves."

During his visit to the Noble Partner base camp, Vice President Mike Pence said the United States "strongly condemns Russia's occupation on Georgia's soil."



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Shiloh Capers



Wikimedia

ACTIVE DUTY

Criteria expanded for Global War on Terrorism medal

The Pentagon has expanded the criteria for the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal to include the U.S. campaign against ISIS in Libya, *Military Times* reports. The expanded geographic criteria reflects U.S. military operations to liberate Sirte from ISIS. Dubbed Operation Odyssey Lightning, the campaign against ISIS in Libya began Aug. 1, 2016, and officially ended Dec. 19, 2016.

*Plus a total of \$9.98 shipping and service; see bradfordexchange.com. Sales subject to product availability and order acceptance.



THE GREAT WAR 100

HONOR & REMEMBRANCE

'A bright, crisp Thanksgiving morning'

Editor's note: Throughout the Great War's centennial, The American Legion Magazine will publish excerpts from the letters of D.B. "Bernard" Ryan of Albion, N.Y., who served as an Army infantry officer and helped found American Legion Sheret Post 35 in 1919.

309TH INFANTRY, CAMP DIX, N.J., NOV. 4, 1917

Dear Mother –

Target practice is scheduled to begin this week. We received some Enfield rifles, which have supplanted the Springfield, because American machinery was adapted for making them for England. Up to date old Craigs have been used for drill. We had Springfields at Madison Barracks. The Enfield is claimed to be an improvement in many respects. It is somewhat heavier.

It was startling yesterday when I drove down to Wrightstown & also today at the game to see the blue uniforms. A quantity which have been in storage since '98 have been issued because of the shortage of clothes – Navy blue coats, bright blue breeches & overcoats & even old hospital corps capes lined with bright green, & brass buttons that you can see for a mile.

NOV. 25, 1917

Friday night I went to the competitive "sing" in the big Y.M.C.A. and last night I went there again not knowing what I was going to see. The "sing" was arranged by Hawkins and eight or so organizations entered into it. (The 309th Infantry) was outclassed by voices but especially by snap and drill. There were four prizes – three loving cups and a plaque – and Gen. Kennedy awarded them. They were for the best and second best singing of "Over There" and "When the Great Red Dawn Is Shining" and for the best original song or parody adopted as regimental songs. Three outfits had original music as well as words and there was much snap and go about them. I expect to see them published.

NOV. 29, 1917

It is a very bright, crisp and fairly warm Thanksgiving morning, with a heavy frost appearing on the roofs and the bare spots where the snow melted off yesterday.

Turkey orders had to be in last Sunday and were based on the number of men to be in the regiment. No intimation was given that that number would be increased by 300, so you can imagine the jumping around yesterday trying to get an additional supply of turkey. Also stunts like this – 60 men sent in to the regiment without warning, all assigned to one company and arriving, unannounced, at noon. Had to be fed, of course.

Love, DBR



Photo courtesy Michael Strauss

CENTENNIAL

Post 71, North Augusta, S.C.

On its Centennial Celebration page, Post 71 has uploaded a picture from its 1948 New Year's party – the second event at the post's new home. In keeping with an old tradition of firing rounds to ring in the new year, post members used M1 Garand rifles when the clock struck midnight.

The post still has the rifles, but no longer fires them off on New Year's Eve.

SHARE YOUR POST'S LEGACY

Upload stories, photos and videos of your post's history on the Legion's Centennial Celebration website.

www.legion.org/centennial

EDUCATION

'Forever GI Bill' discharge dates



Q: I was discharged from the Army in 2004. Unfortunately, due to a lot going on in my life, I have not been able to use my Post-9/11 GI Bill Chapter 33 benefits. I have heard about the "Forever GI Bill," though. What is that?

A: The Harry W. Colmery Veterans Educational

Assistance Act of 2017, named for the American Legion national commander who was a key figure behind passage of the original GI Bill, is known as the "Forever GI Bill." The legislation eliminates the time limit of 15 years for post-9/11 beneficiaries. To receive this extension, you must have been discharged on or after Jan. 1, 2013. Since you were discharged in 2004, you do not qualify; you have until 2019 to use your benefits.

Valerie Heffner is a Marine Corps veteran and member of American Legion Post 27 in Arizona.

askvalerie@legion.org

Vaccines and Stem Cells: Secret Weapons in the Fight Against Lung Disease

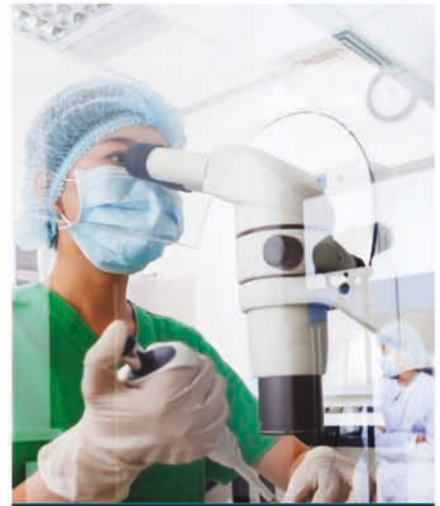
Once a year around the end of October, the U.S. will enter flu season, sparking millions of parents and grandparents to pull their children kicking and screaming all the way to the doctor's office. Although any needle is an unwelcomed one, we tolerate these injections because at our hearts, we just want to be healthy. However, what is often unknown—or worse neglected—is that seniors have an inherently weaker immune system, leading to increased rates of medical complications and death from viruses like the flu—particularly those suffering from lung disease such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), pulmonary fibrosis and emphysema.

Although many of these deaths are preventable, fortunately, the answer is simple: get vaccinated.

The relationship between vaccines and health cannot be understated, particularly for seniors suffering from respiratory illness, who are inherently at a higher risk of illness. For those who live with a debilitating lung disease, exacerbations or flare-ups can be both

physically and mentally exhausting. Exacerbations further lung degeneration, and when coupled with fatigue and a consistent shortness of breath, chronic lung disease is an extraordinarily difficult disease to live with. Throw in the flu and these factors produce a potentially lethal combination.

Although flu shots are known to reduce flu-related hospital admissions by up to 77%, when it comes to combating lung disease, there are few options available that directly address more than disease symptoms. However, as medicine has continued to advance, stem cell therapy and clinics such as the Lung Institute (LungInstitute.com) have come to the forefront as a method of treatment. Since 2013, the Lung Institute has successfully treated thousands of patients, operating under the highest safety standards. Using stem cells as the body's natural repair mechanism, stem cell therapy serves to promote healing from within, reduce lung inflammation and may im-



For seniors with lung disease, a flu vaccine combined with stem cell therapy could have a significant impact on their health and quality of life.

prove quality of life and pulmonary function in those with chronic respiratory illnesses.

Emerging from a time when epidemics wiped out a significant percentage of the population every century, science has taken humanity into a golden era of medicine and personal healthcare. Although neither the flu nor chronic lung disease possess a known cure, through the combination of vaccines and stem cell therapy, it's possible to dramatically affect the lives—and lifespan—of one of our nation's most susceptible demographic. ■

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PERSONAL FINANCE



A primer on VA's pre-need burial eligibility

FOCUS ON FINANCES



J.J. MONTANARO

Holiday gatherings usually mean food and fun, but there are often serious discussions about what's happening with members of our family and our plans. Last year, we tackled the implications of Alzheimer's, and the year before that my son shared his decision to join the Army with the extended family.

Good or bad, exciting or frightening,

at our house the holiday season offers opportunities to dive into deep issues.

As a financial planner, I think that's a good thing. Discussions (and action!) about wishes, wills, powers of attorney, care plans and the like can all help create clarity and provide peace of mind across generations.

Speaking of peace of mind, VA's National Cemetery Administration announced a new Pre-Need Eligibility Determination Program last December. Whether you're 24 or 74, this could be just what you need to do to make things easy on your family when you pass away. I remember that when my father died, we had to scrounge through his records to find a DD 214 and then make numerous phone calls, send faxes and do a lot of grunt work that this program

has the potential to eliminate. Even if it's not a fun or exciting topic, signing up is a great way to do what's necessary to take care of your family.

Remember, VA burial benefits include burial in any open VA national cemetery (there are 135 national cemeteries in 40 states and Puerto Rico), a grave liner, perpetual care of the gravesite, a headstone, a burial flag and a presidential memorial certificate. By getting all the details ironed out to smooth the process during a difficult time, you can find significant financial savings for your family.

The eligibility requirements are outlined at www.cem.va.gov, and include being discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. After your death, your family will need to contact VA's National Cemetery scheduling office to request burial benefits.

I've submitted my application and expect to receive it in 60 to 90 days, I'll have a nice, clean letter and instructions ready for my wife and kids to bust out when it's my time – hopefully in about 50 years or so.

J.J. Montanaro is a certified financial planner with USAA, The American Legion's preferred provider of financial services. Submit questions for him online.

www.legion.org/usaa/focusonfinance

ACTIVE DUTY

Big bonuses to build a bigger Army

To reach its goal of 1,018,000 soldiers – including 476,000 active-duty personnel (up from 460,000), 343,000 National Guardsmen (up from 335,000) and 199,000 reservists (up from 195,000) – the Army is offering retention bonuses of up to \$10,000 for any soldier who has the option to separate in fiscal 2017, *Army Times* reports. New enlistees can receive bonuses totaling up to \$40,000.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Russell Toof

However, Army Chief of Staff Gen. Mark Milley wants more recruits and more soldiers in 2018. The *Times* points out that in congressional testimony, Milley suggested that "an active Army of 476,000 is not adequate to maintain troops ready to respond to contingencies around the world. Instead, he floated another set of numbers – between 540,000 and 550,000 soldiers in the active Army, 353,000 to 355,000 in the Guard and 205,000 to 209,000 for the reserve."

VERBATIM

“Everyone loves their smartphones, but let's be honest – they can be downright dangerous. The state rightly banned texting and driving, and now it's time to protect pedestrians.”

San Mateo County Supervisor David Canepa, on his colleagues' unanimous support of a resolution urging California lawmakers to ban cellphones in crosswalks. Distracted walking incidents involving cellphones accounted for more than 11,000 injuries between 2000 and 2011, according to a 2015 report from the National Safety Council. *Source: The Mercury News*

Photo by Warren Wong

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How to submit a reunion

The American Legion Magazine publishes reunion notices for veterans. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Reunions, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280, e-mail reunions@legion.org or submit information via our website, www.legion.org/reunions.

Include the branch of service and complete name of the group, no abbreviations, with your request. The listing also should include the reunion dates and city, along with a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Listings are publicized free of charge.

Your notice will appear on our Web site within a week and will remain available online until the final day of your reunion. Upon submission, please allow three months for your reunion to be published in print. **Due to the large number of reunions, The American Legion Magazine will publish a group's listing only once a year.**

Notices should be sent at least six months prior to the reunion to ensure timely publication.

Other notices

"In Search Of" is a means of getting in touch with people from your unit to plan a reunion. **We do not publish listings that seek people for interviews, research purposes, military photos or help in filing a VA claim.** Listings must include the name of the unit from which you seek people, the time period and the location, as well as a contact name, telephone number and e-mail address. Send notices to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: "In Search Of," P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206**, fax (317) 630-1280 or e-mail reunions@legion.org.

The magazine will not publish names of individuals, only the name of the unit. Listings are published free of charge.

Life Membership notices are published for Legionnaires who have been awarded life

memberships by their posts. **This does not include a member's own Paid-Up-For-Life membership.** Notices must be submitted on official forms, which may be obtained by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Life Memberships, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.**

"Comrades in Distress" listings must be approved by the Legion's Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation division. If you are seeking to verify an injury received during service, contact your Legion department service officer for information on how to publish a notice.

To respond to a "Comrades in Distress" listing, send a letter to **The American Legion Magazine, Attn: Comrades in Distress, P.O. Box 1055, Indianapolis, IN 46206.** Include the listing's CID number in your response.

"Taps" notices are published only for Legionnaires who served as department commanders or national officers.

AIR FORCE / ARMY AIR FORCES

355th Ftr Grp Assn, Tucson, AZ, 2/28-3/5, William Cook, (303) 541-2653, bigbill355thfa@aol.com; **446th Bomb Grp (WWII)**, San Antonio, 4/11-15, Kevin Meier, (440) 224-0717, kparka1984@yahoo.com; **664th AC&W Sqdn & All Radar Service (RSV) Vets**, Bellefontaine, OH, 6/22-24, Billy Stafford, (937) 592-2306; **Safeside Assn**, Valdosta, GA, 11/6-8, Pete Villarreal, (907) 388-6942, villa@santanet.org

ARMY

5th Bn 7th Cav, Pittsburgh, 7/29-8/4, Donald Shipley, (618) 863-2635, 57don@24kttravel.com; **359th Trans Co (Vietnam)**, San Antonio, 5/9-13, John Porter, (432) 267-1733, crowbar.1@comcast.net; **B Trp 7/17th Air Cav**, Branson, MO, 5/16-19, Buddy Harp, (573) 470-0395, buddyharp@yahoo.com; **Battle of the Bulge Vets**, West Palm Beach, FL, 12/17, George Fisher, (561) 575-7086, fvbob@aol.com; **Infantry OCS Class 9-70 (55th Co)**, Fort Benning, GA, 4/16-18, Robert Cole, (803) 865-8304, robertcolec@aol.com; **Nuclear Wpns Warrant Officers**, Huntsville, AL, 4/26-29, Pete Hewitt, (256) 508-8004, hewittpe88@gmail.com

MARINES

3rd Bn 27th Mar, Dayton, OH, 7/18-22, Dana Harper, (740) 624-7089, dharp@stsbb.com; **Mar Air Support Sqdn 3 (MASS-3), 1st Air Mar Wing (Vietnam)**, Oceanside/Camp Pendleton, CA, 7/17-19, Craig Hullinger, (309) 634-5557, craighullinger@gmail.com

NAVY

Ault DD 698, Baton Rouge, LA, 5/3-7, Tony Fuentes, (210) 495-9554, fountain48@sbcglobal.net; **Harry E. Yarnell DLG/CG 17**, Virginia Beach, VA, 11/2-5, Glenn Hunsberger, (757) 287-5429, glenn_hunsberger@yahoo.com; **Julius A. Furer DEG/FFG 6**, Norfolk, VA, 11/9-12, Popeye Mathis, (816) 456-6210, shcmppuyethesailor@gmail.com; **Kearsarge CV/CVA/CVS 33 & LHD 3 (All Eras)**, Jacksonville, FL, 4/30-5/4, Bill Hollywood, (907) 617-1040, aknos@outlook.com; **Magoffin APA 199**, San Diego, 5/9-12, Mike Stein, (800) 621-5950, mpstein1@cox.net; **Manitowoc LST 1180**, Norfolk, VA, 6/21-25, Ken Bohanon, (763) 244-0051, kenbohanon@live.com; **NMCB 62 Seabees**, Gulfport, MS, 4/26-29, Norm Hahn, (715) 379-8482, normhahnjr@yahoo.com; **Satyr ARL 23 & LST 603**, Chattanooga, TN, 5/17-21, Charles Massey, (410) 883-3361, ctbwwonder@verizon.net; **Terrebonne Parish LST 1156**, Pittsburgh, 5/16-20, Dave Bader, (614) 296-8380, redab36@wowway.com; **White Plains AS 4**, San Diego, 6/7-10, Stephen Edmison, (801) 985-3665, afs-4@comcast.net; **YAGRS Assn (Radar Picket Ships AGR 1-16, YR 23 & YR 65)**, New Orleans, 9/18-23, Lee Doyel, (850) 433-6930, yagrs16@cox.net

IN SEARCH OF

2nd, 11th Arty, 101st Airmobile (Camp Eagle, Vietnam, 1970-1972), Dale Rosenberg, (701) 653-5614, drosenberg@gondtc.com; **7th Army HQ Trp 4th Armor Cav Stn (Fulda, Germany, 1961-1964)**, Gerald Deflippo, 320 West Ave., Lockport, NY 14094; **28th Strat Recon Wing / 28th Air Base Grp (Ellsworth AFB, Rapid City, SD, July 1953-June 1955)**, Paul Nordstog, P.O. Box 1073, Billings, MT 59103; **66th Mil Intel Grp Sig Sect (Munich, 1971-1973)**, Eric Morrow, morroweric13@yahoo.com; **110th MP Comp Sentry Dog Ptn (Korea, June 1970-July 1971)**, Bruce Bean, (623) 878-2803, travelbuds@aol.com; **824th Cbt Def Sqdn (Carswell AFB, TX, May 1963-June 1964)**, Fred Rogers, (972) 977-9342, frtrx@icloud.com; **3902nd Cbt Def Sqdn (Offutt AFB, NE, Sept 1960-Apr 1962)**, Fred Rogers, (972) 977-9342, frtrx@icloud.com; **4082nd Cbt Def Sqdn (Goose AB, Labrador, Apr 1962-May 1963)**, Fred Rogers, (972) 977-9342, frtrx@icloud.com; **C Co 1st Amph Trac Bn 1st Mar Div (South Korea, Nov 1953-Jan 1955)**, Ralph Howell, (330) 962-0045, howrlh@aol.com; **COMZ Orleans Knights Football Team (Orleans, France, 1959-1960)**, Ed Davis, (704) 477-2135, cartoonart@att.net; **E & C Cos, 2/501, 101st Abn Div (Vietnam, July 1969-Nov 1970)**, Joseph Martin, (240) 330-9338, nitpam@aol.com; **E Co 168th Inf 34th Div (Cassino, Italy, 1943-1944)**, William Baker, (256) 810-2327; **Eng OCS 520F (Fort Belvoir, VA, Apr-Oct 1968)**, C. Bruce Slavin, (252) 813-0839, cbslavin@gmail.com; **Fire Dept Wiesbaden AB, Germany (1969-1973)**, Andre Greene, (718) 828-5602; **Hancock CAG 21 Check Crews (Cubi Point, PI, Da Nang, Vietnam & NAS Miramar, CA, Check Crew, 1964-1973)**, John McCormack, (252) 632-0013, johnmccormack500@gmail.com; **MACS-7 (Atsugi, Japan, Apr 1961-May 1962)**, Jack Brunner, (201) 265-7699; **Plt 244 2nd Recruit Bn (MCRD Parris Island, SC, July-Oct 1956)**, Michael Lupfer, (803) 642-1827, mblup4@gmail.com; **VP-63 (Pembroke Dock, England, 1943-1944)**, Marlin Crider, (904) 781-2385, desoto1950@att.net

LIFE MEMBERSHIPS

Post 440, IN: Larry J. Boezman, Roger D. Croft, William J. Figg, Paul D. Nemeth, David R. Wallace
Post 225, MI: Larry Higgins
Post 188, NJ: Michael Barber, Sanford "Sandy" Groendyke, Henry W. Hagen, Alfred J. Patane
Post 111, FL: John Barker, Richard Hirsch

TAPS

Edward M. Alvarez, Dept. of California. Dept. Vice Cmdr. 2006-2007, Dept. Hist. 2013-2014, Dept. Law & Order Chmn. 2011-2013 and Nat'l Naval Affairs Cmte. Consultant 2006-2007.
Keith Baker, Dept. of Iowa. Nat'l Vice Cmdr. 1995-1996, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Vice Chmn. 1981-1985, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Memb. 1978-1981, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Consultant 1976-1978, Nat'l Legislative Cmsn. Memb. 1996-2002 and Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1973-1976.
Rickey L. Helsley, Dept. of Idaho. Dept. Cmdr. 2000-2001, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1995-1998, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Consultant 2002-2004, Nat'l Sec. Cncl. Vice Chmn. 1999-2000 and Nat'l Public Relations Cmsn. Advisory Board Memb. 2006-2012.
Paul Mitras, Dept. of New York. Dept. Cmdr. 2001-2002, Dept. Vice Cmdr. 1997-1998, Dept. Children & Youth Chmn. 1998-2001, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Memb. 2007-2009, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2005-2007, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Memb. 2005-2007, Nat'l Children & Youth Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2007-2009 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2009-2011.
Luther J. Otero, Dept. of New Mexico. Nat'l Citizens Flag Alliance Dept. Chmn. 1998-1999 and Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 1983-1984.
H. Ownby, Dept. of France. Dept. Vice Cmdr., 2010-2012, Dept. Constitution & By-Laws Chmn. 2012-2014, Dept. Foreign Relations Chmn. 2011-2012, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 2012-2014, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cncl. Vice Chmn. 2007-2013, and Nat'l Unconventional Forces & Intelligence Cmte. Memb. 2013-2017.
William C. Plowden Jr., Dept. of South Carolina. Dept. Cmdr. 1957-1958, Nat'l Americanism Cmsn. Memb. 1960-2002, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Memb. 1953-1954, Nat'l Cmte. on Education Americanism Cmsn. Rep. 1977-2002, Nat'l Law and Order Cmte. Memb. 1950-1951, Nat'l Mbrshp. & Post Activ. Cmte. Memb. 1955-1957, Nat'l Sec. Tng. Cmte. Memb. 1954-1955 and Nat'l Boys State Cmte. Memb. 1958-1960.
Leroy P. Pulawa, Dept. of Hawaii. Dept. Cmdr. 1989-1991, Nat'l Exec. Cmte. Alt. Memb. 1991-1995 and 2004-2011, Nat'l Americanism Cncl. 1989-1995, Nat'l Distinguished Guests Cmte. Vice Chmn. 2006-2010, Nat'l Veterans Employment & Education Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1995-1999 and 2001-2003, Nat'l Foreign Relations Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 2000-2001 and Nat'l American Legion Magazine Cmsn. Liaison Cmte. Memb. 1999-2000.

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My family wants me to stop telling Thanksgiving jokes, but I can't quit cold turkey.

WANT TO freak someone out? Add two extra legs to the turkey when it's in the oven.

A YOUNG WOMAN told her mother, "I'm going out with Joe again tonight."

"Him again?" her mother replied. "If you like his attentions so much, why don't you marry him?"

"Because I like his attentions."

I ASKED my daughter if she'd seen my newspaper. She told me that newspapers are old school and handed me her iPad. The fly didn't stand a chance.

A WOMAN rolled an elderly man in a wheelchair into the reception area of a doctor's office. As she went to the front desk, the man sat there, alone and silent. Then a boy climbed off his mother's lap and walked over to the wheelchair. Placing his hand on the man's, the boy said, "I know how you feel. My mom makes me ride in the stroller too."

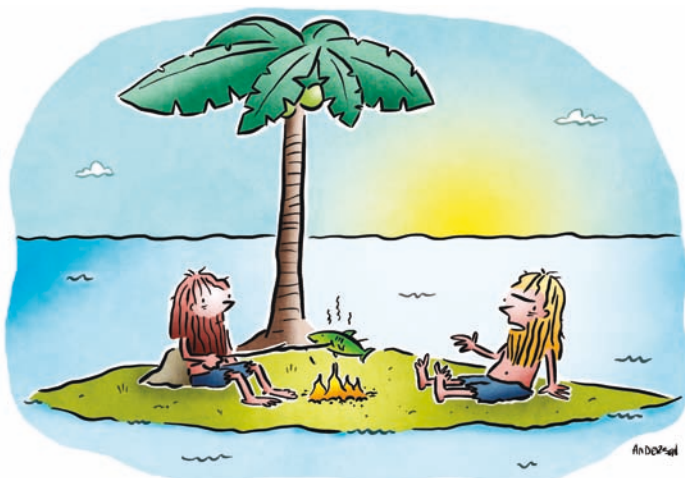
AN ELDERLY PATIENT said to his doctor, "My leg aches all the time."

"That's just old age," the doctor replied.

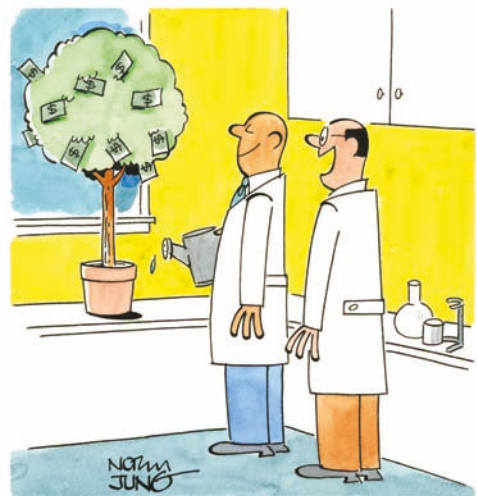
"Well, my other leg is exactly the same age, and it feels fine!"

WHERE DID NOAH keep his bees? In the ark hives.

I LIKE TO GET the most out of mystery novels. I always start in the middle – not only do I wonder how it'll end, I also wonder how it started.



"Catch of the day? Again?"



"By Jove, you've done it!"



"But what if the Guinness people aren't interested?"

A YOUNG MAN said to his girlfriend, "I have to tell the truth. While we've been dating, I've been secretly seeing a psychiatrist."

"Don't worry about it," she replied. "I've secretly been seeing a lawyer and a car salesman."

MY WIFE says I'm too competitive. I told her that I already knew that.

TWO SNAILS are chatting on the sidewalk. "I'll have to cross the road," one says.

"Well, be careful," the other one replies. "There's a bus coming in an hour."

I SENT my picture to the Lonely Hearts Club. The reply said they weren't *that* lonely.

"THE NEWS ORGANIZATIONS are actually telling people what to do in case of a nuclear attack. They say people should immediately stay inside and keep watching Netflix." – Jimmy Fallon

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